

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
December 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Larry Johnson, Chairman

Mike Kreke, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff's Sergeant Dennis Perez called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on December 20, 2021. The meeting was held with options for Zoom and Conference Call.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Johnson, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kreke, Middendorff, Netemeyer, Rapien, Strieker, Sullivan, Taylor, Wessel, Wesselmann, White. Absent: Heinzmann, Nordike. Let the record reflect that we have a quorum.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2021 regular meeting. Wessel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

Heather Behrens of Lake Township spoke to board members on behalf of a group of parents whom, she said, have been standing up for the children of Carlyle school district and the surrounding Clinton County communities. She voiced concerns stating that the Clinton County Health Department, under the guidance of the Board of Health, has spent the fall semester of this school year holding their children to a standard that they do not hold the adults of this county to. She said their group had attended a Board of Health meeting hoping for a productive dialogue and to request transparency in the COVID numbers, and they received neither. They asked for a birds-eye view of how the virus was affecting demographics in the county by age and vaccination status, and she said none of these requests were answered. She said there are many wonderful people who work at the health department who have been helpful, understanding and accommodating; however, there are others who are not. She provided board members with a sampling of concerning incidents involving certain employees tasked with COVID mitigation and asked the County Board to investigate the actions of these employees. She asked the board members to take action to help the group regain their parental independence, to stop the bullying of their children by certain county employees and to stand up for their rights at the local level.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Motion to Approve - Semi-Annual Reports from Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner and County Clerk & Recorder Vicky Albers.

Wesselmann made a motion for a roll call vote. Rapien seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes)
Motion Carried 12-0.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Craig Taylor

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

Motion to Approve – Final Plat for Hanke Estates, a one-lot subdivision in East Fork Township on Boulder Road. The request is submitted by Larry and Diane Hanke.

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. White seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).
Motion Carried 12-0.

b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike

No Report

c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan

No Report

d. Environmental Concerns/Unincorporated/Solid Waste – Nelson Heinzmann

No Report

e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel

Wessel reported that state reports were sent to the Department of Revenue on Dec. 1 to determine the county's multiplier. The Board of Review started reviewing appeals on Dec. 13. As of Dec. 6, there were only 16 appeals to consider as compared to 95 last year. There are still four PTAB appeals pending from 2019.

f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

Strieker reported on the Dec. 13 committee meeting. The monthly Einstein Consulting report showed total fees are down 13.34 percent as compared to this time last year, pharmacy expenses were down 3 percent, medical claims were down 6 percent and fixed costs were down 33 percent. For this Fiscal Year, claims and fees are 25.5 percent under budget without reimbursements and 53.8 percent under budget with reimbursements. The committee has been discussing implementation of Flexible Spending Accounts, a new benefit option for employees.

g. Facilities Committee – Ken Knolhoff

K. Knolhoff reported that Elliot Data Systems, which is installing the secure entry system at the courthouse, has completed door locks on the first and second floors with some work remaining on the third floor. The committee approved the architect's plan for the new roof at the courthouse and will proceed with seeking bids. Bids should be in by the January board meeting. A pre-bid meeting is set for 10 a.m. on Dec. 21 at the courthouse. New flooring in the break room of the State's Attorney's Office will be installed on Dec. 23. Paper shredding has been completed, and Knolhoff offered a special thanks to Dennie Perez, Dennis Moss and employees of the Highway Department for help with moving boxes as well as the Corps of Engineers for letting the county share the use of the shredding truck.

h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor

1. In the past month there were 22 new dogs taken in with 10 strays, 12 surrendered, six reclaimed, three adopted and one rescued. There were 37 cats with 26 strays, eight surrendered, three on rabies hold, three adopted, 13 rescued and four put down. Animal Control Warden Bryanna Becker has taken over the duties of issuing rabies tags. Soil samples were taken at the County Farm and bids are currently being sought for the new County Farm Rental Contract.

2. Motion to Approve – Contract for Construction of Multi-Purpose Building

The committee opened bids on Dec. 7 for the 9,460 square-foot building which includes a 1,300-square-foot loft for storage, a five-bay garage with two drive-thru lanes that can be utilized for COVID testing or vaccinations and a 225-square-foot office. The new facility includes a fenced-in concrete lot with 20 kennels, a puppy room and a cat room. There were nine bidders with the low bid submitted by Southwestern Construction Services of Highland for \$890,610 with many of the subcontractors being from Clinton County. Southwestern's base bid was \$835,200 with an additional \$9,300 for the bond, \$32,000 for the fence and \$14,110 for the parking lot. There is a six-month window for the building to be completed, and the old facility could be used for storage by other county departments. It is anticipated that the bulk of the funding for the building will come from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Taylor made a motion for a roll call vote. Wesselmann seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).
Motion Carried 12-0.

i. Education Committee – James White

No Report

j. Veterans Committee – Bob Netemeyer

Netemeyer reminded board members to remember the men and women serving our country who cannot be home for Christmas.

k. Finance/Health/Revolving Loan Committee/General Services/Judiciary – Brad Knolhoff

1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Motion to Approve the Monthly Budget and Financial Report for November.

B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report.

White seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Trame reported the county received an oil check for \$7,379.34 and \$6,670.31 was collected for video gaming last month. The annual tax sale was held Dec.14 with tax buyers taking over the tax debt on 201 parcels totaling \$239,596.52.

2. Motion to Approve – Resolution to Execute Deed of Conveyance of the County’s Interest for a Parcel Auctioned at the Surplus Property Sale on June 4, 2021 and Subsequently Sold by the County’s Tax Agent

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Wessel seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes);

Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker

(Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).

Motion Carried 12-0.

3. B. Knolhoff said Kaskaskia College President George Evans spoke to the committee asking for the board’s support and the county’s leadership in pursuing an Illinois Connectivity Grant. The program offers a total of \$400 million in funding and would bring broadband to parts of Illinois that are in need of improved Internet, especially on the eastern end of Clinton County where the college is located. The committee opted to move forward with this request. There is no expense to the county and full board approval is not required at this time. Knolhoff said it could present a good opportunity to improve Internet in the county.

4. The committee also spoke with 911 Board members on the joint effort to update the county’s emergency radio system. A meeting regarding what radio options are available was held on Nov. 23 with emergency service agencies from throughout the county. While the county will be primarily purchasing the new system, all of the other agencies are users of the system so their input is important. All entities agreed that a P-25 Trunking System was favored. Knolhoff said the committee is now moving in that direction and will be seeking a firm to do a Request for Proposal.

l. Law Enforcement/EMA/Welfare/Safety/Liquor – James White

White reported that implementation of ID Networks, the new computer software for the Sheriff’s Department’s records management system and computer-aided dispatch, is delayed for a few months. Sheriff Dan Travous was able to work with the current vendor, Cushing, to get an extension of services on the existing contract. EMA director Tim Schleper spoke to the committee about the progress of a remodeling project at the EMA building and said the work should be completed by spring. EMA has two cars that need to be sold and they are looking into purchasing a truck, which would be more functional for the agency.

m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Highway Engineer's Report – Dan Behrens
 - i. Motion to Approve – Resolution Appropriating Funds for Payment of the County Engineer's Salary. Highway Engineer Dan Behrens explained that this allows his salary to be paid out of Motor Fuel Tax funding.

Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote. Sullivan seconded the motion.
Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).
Motion Carried 12-0.
 - ii. Motion to Approve – Petition from Wheatfield Township for a 50 percent Match for the Replacement of a Culvert on Frogtown Road.

Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote. Sullivan seconded the motion.
Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).
Motion Carried 12-0.
 - iii. Behrens said salt prices have increased from \$41.68/ton last year to \$71.66/ton this year. The state had a provision in the previous contract that the county could renew its contract with a maximum 10 percent increase. However, the state waived that provision for the company since they had some type of disaster in one of their salt mines. The state, which handles all salt bids, had to seek new bids this year, and, as a result, the county now has to pay considerably higher prices. The county had quite a bit of salt left from last year; however, they are required to take 80 percent of the quantity requested. Aggregate rock bids for the county and townships for 2022 will be opened on Jan. 4. Behrens reported on a base failure that took place on a county roadway south of Albers creating a 2-1/2 inch gap in the pavement. A county crew oiled and rocked the roadway to repair the issue.
- n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke
 1. Motion to Approve – Resolution Decreasing the Eligible Number of Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) Members

Kreke said the number will be reduced from 39 to 35 members, which is the number of people currently in the SLEP program. Rapien asked what the effects of this would be and why is there a need to change it. Kreke said the county has 39 spots open but only has 35 employees in the program. Kreke said decreasing the number is more of a "cleanup" to keep the number allowed consistent with the number currently enrolled. Rapien asked if the Sheriff's Department hired an additional SLEP-eligible employee in the future would there be a problem getting the spot back. Kreke said that, according to contract, increasing the number of employees in the ranks would have to be approved by the County Board. If someone were to come out of SLEP, the new employee would be in automatically, but if a 36th employee was added, the County Board would have to approve increasing the number of allowable spots. K. Knolhoff asked if it costs the county anything to leave the program as it is. Kreke said, yes, it could cost the county

money in future negotiations. Rapien asked why the county initially had 39 spots. Kreke said a previous state's attorney arbitrarily set it at 39.

Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. Wesselmann seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (No), Knolhoff, K (No); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (No); Strieker (No); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (No); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 7-5.

2. Motion to Approve – Payout for Sarah Isaak for Unused Leave of 30 Hours. Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. B. Knolhoff seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White
Wesselmann reported that Carolyn Santel and Edna Woltering have resigned from the 708 Mental Health Board. The board is still operating with a quorum so they opted to wait to fill the vacancies until June when the new terms are slated to begin. There are now three vacancies to fill as Dr. Brian Klostermann resigned earlier this year.
- b. County Health – James White
Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report
Netemeyer made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report. Wesselmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- c. GIS Committee – Craig Taylor
No Report
- d. 911 Committee – Mike Kreke
Kreke said improvements have been made through the 2021 NextGen grant funding. Training and implementation are expected early this year. The state has announced a total of \$8 million in funding through the 2022 NextGen grant. Kaskaskia College President George Evans spoke to the committee about options for improving Internet access on the east end of the county and partnering with the county on a potential grant opportunity.
- e. Technology Support – James White
No Report
- f. UCCI – Jim Sullivan
Sullivan spoke about membership dues and said UCCI will be reimbursing member counties for 2021 dues. Membership dues for 2022 are due in January; however, counties will receive money and mileage back for meetings attended throughout the new year.

- g. Reorganization Committee – Mike Kreke
Motion to Approve – Consolidation of Voting Precincts from 39 to 34 and Shift of Boundary Between Wade 1 and Wade 2 to Reflect the New Legislative Map.
Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. Netemeyer seconded the motion.
Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes);
Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (No); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).
Motion Carried 11-1.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of accounts payable. Strieker seconded the motion.
Heinzmann (Absent); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (No);
Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (No); Nordike (Absent); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes).
Motion Carried 10-2.

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Motion to Approve – Change January Meeting from the Third Monday of the Month to Tuesday, January 18 due to Martin Luther King Holiday. The meeting will start at 7:15 p.m. instead of the normal 7 p.m.
Netemeyer made a motion to change the meeting date. Wessel seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

White made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:15 p.m. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder