

**CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**February 22, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**

Larry Johnson, Chairman

Mike Kreke, Vice Chairman

**1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

Sheriff Doug Maue called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 22, 2021. The meeting was held with options for Zoom and Conference Call.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

**3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion – Wessel made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 regular meeting. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD**

a. Dr. Deanna DuComb gave an update on the Health Board noting that meetings have been moved to the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. with the next meeting on March 2. She thanked the former and present state’s attorneys for background information they have been able to supply regarding the proposed construction of a new health department building. He thanked Brad Knolhoff, past board member, for being a dedicated member of the building committee. She recognized the health department employees for doing an exemplary job with the vaccine scheduling and other COVID-related matters. The new administrator Chris Leidel has assimilated into his job very well. While it will take time, the board is moving forward with the construction of a new building. Survey work on the former church property will be completed and the building committee will begin working with an architect.

**7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

a. Service Recognition for Retiring Chief Probation Officer Randy Brandmeyer. Johnson expressed the county’s appreciation to Brandmeyer and presented him with a plaque for his 37 years of dedicated service with the county from 1984 to 2021. Brandmeyer thanked the County Board and the many department heads and employees whom he has worked with over the years. He has realized from his many years of

experience how well Clinton County employees and department heads work together. He said a lot of counties do not have a good working relationship between the offices, so it was a real blessing to have the experience he has enjoyed.

## **8. STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Craig Taylor**

#### **1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser**

##### **i. Motion to Approve - Map Amendment from Agricultural (A) to Agricultural-Residential (A-R) for Mark and Jan Dall in Germantown Township.**

Staser reported that this land is west of Germantown and east of Albers. Due to the lay of the land, the creek and the floodplain, this land does have limited use with about 3 acres of buildable ground (space for just 1 or 2 houses).

Sullivan made a motion for a roll call vote. White seconded the motion.

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

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

Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes);

White (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0.

### **b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike**

No Report.

### **c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan**

Sullivan stated that the committee has approved sending a letter to partner with IllinoisSouth Tourism for another year.

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

No Report.

### **e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel**

No Report.

### **f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann**

Heinzmann reported that the insurance committee met on February 8. No information was available on the monthly health insurance costs due to the county's server issues.

However, according to IPMG, the county had another good month with total claims at \$31,140.81. Rebates paid back to the county for January were \$2,724. The committee received an update from Dan Imming of Imming Insurance who explained that all of the county's buildings and contents have been appraised. This is done every four years at no expense to the county. Building values have increased 13 percent and the content values have increased 65 percent. There will be no additional premium costs at this time, but the increased values will be considered with the premium renewal. The next meeting is set for March 8.

### **g. Facilities Committee – Keith Nordike**

Nordike stated that the county is moving forward with improvements to the lighting in the courthouse. TNT Electric will be getting a bid together and getting back to the committee.

- h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor  
Taylor reported that 18 cats and 10 dogs were picked up in the past month. One of the outside kennels is in need of repair. The committee discussed the duties of the part-time workers. Animal Control has a computer that needs to be replaced, and Wifi connection is still needed. Becker acquired a supply of dog food at no cost to the county. They are looking into offering credit card payment for Animal Control. The committee discussed the soil samples at the county farm.
- i. Education Committee – James White  
No Report.
- j. Veterans Committee – Bob Netemeyer  
No Report.
- k. Finance/Health/Revolving Loan Committee/General Services/Judiciary – Brad Knolhoff
  - 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame – No Report since the server was shut down and files were not accessible.
    - i. Motion to Approve – Purchase of Bitcoin for Payment of Files  
Knolhoff stated that an emergency meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Feb. 2 to discuss a ransomware attack on Jan. 24. The committee approved the purchase of up to one Bitcoin (a type of crypto currency) for receiving the tools necessary to decrypt and regain access to the county’s servers. The committee recommended the purchase of up to one Bitcoin, which was valued at about \$37,000 at that time with all of the associated fees.  
Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote for the full board to ratify the committee’s decision. Taylor seconded the motion.  
Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0.
    - ii. Knolhoff reported on the regular Finance meeting stating that there had been some talk about forming an Executive Committee, but it was decided that this type of committee is not needed at this time. The committee also worked on a resolution stating its opposition to several parts of HB3653, the law enforcement reform bill. The intention was to approve the resolution at this meeting.  
Unfortunately, the governor signed HB3653 today, so approval of the resolution was dismissed.
  - 1. Law Enforcement/EMA/Welfare/Safety/Liquor – James White  
Maue reported there was an outbreak of COVID-19 among inmates at the County Jail. Twenty-three of the 35 inmates tested positive; however, they are currently all off quarantine with very little serious illness reported. Maue states that it was a good thing that the sheriff’s department had the Advanced Healthcare System in place and the County Health Department was involved. Both did an exceptional job. Maue also thanked Wesselmann for offering her business parking lot last week when the sheriff’s office was involved in a three-hour standoff in that area.

m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Monthly County Engineer Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens reported that bids will be open this Friday for several items that were not bid previously, including slag for the county and townships and riprap. The business that normally bids these items had mailed the bids; however, they were delayed in the mail and arrived at the Highway Department three days late. The county submitted to IDOT the project proposal to add shoulders to Aviston Road, south of Aviston, from just north of Highline Road running south to Lake Branch. That covers about one-half mile and is probably the highest accident location in the county on county highways, Behrens states. IDOT will have to provide its blessing to allow the county to use Rebuild Illinois funds for the project. The contract has been executed by the state for the bridge over Gibbs Creek on Boulder Road. A pre-job meeting is set up for March 25, and the contractor is still bound by a June 25 completion date. Behrens said he does not have a date from the contractor on the resurfacing of Stollertown Road which was delayed last year. In the last two weeks, the department used about 650 ton of salt which was a little more than half of what was contracted for the winter. Wessel commended the highway staff on the good job they did clearing roads after the recent snowstorm.

n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke

Kreke reported that the federal program for COVID-19 leave expired on Dec. 31, 2020, so the county no longer has a COVID policy in place. Sheriff's department representatives approached the committee and made some valid points about what the county could do about this. Because there is no policy (or legislation regarding COVID leave) in place right now, it becomes a contractual issue as far as leave time. Kreke said. The committee recommended that employees who would like to see a policy established should contact their union reps and make either a unified, or individual, recommendation to the committee, and it will be addressed in that manner. Kreke stated that the committee has been working on contracts with two still pending and two settled. The goal was to stay around 2 percent on an hourly range and that was able to be done with the three-year contract for the maintainers.

i. Motion to Approve Highway Maintenance Contract

Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. Middendorff seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Present); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0 (1-present)

ii. Motion to Approve Highway Engineer Technician's Contract

This contract exceeded the goal of 2 percent. Kreke explained the employees are new to the union, and during the first year of contract negotiations, they are entitled to arbitration. Arbitration would have cost the county about \$5,000. The pay increase in question would cost the county less than \$4,000 over the life of the contract, so approving the three-year contract was more feasible than going into arbitration. Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. Knolhoff, B. seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Present); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes);

- White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0 (1-present)
- iii. Motion to Approve Letter of Resignation for Tom Ellis  
Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. Taylor seconded the motion.  
Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes);  
Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes);  
Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes);  
White (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0.
  - iv. Motion to Approve Payout for Tom Ellis – Tabled. Kreke said the county is still reviewing the payout request for Ellis.
  - v. Motion to Approve Letter of Resignation for Probation Officer Carla Stalnaker who has been named the new Chief Probation Officer.  
Kreke made a motion to approve the letter. Heinzmann seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried.

## 10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White  
White stated that the 708 Mental Health Board has not had a meeting; however, the board's secretary/treasurer has resigned. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to fill that position.
- b. County Health – James White  
White offered updates from the Health Administrator's report. The vaccine roll out from the state has slowed down. The county is receiving 300 Moderna first doses this week and 600 next week. The department is hoping for an ample supply of second doses as well. As of the meeting date, they had vaccinated 2,535 county residents (6.7 percent of the population). The board discussed survey proposals for the former church property; however, the process needs to be rebid using the proper procedures.
  - 1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report  
White made a motion to approve the report. Wessel seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried.
- c. GIS Committee – Craig Taylor  
No Report.
- d. 911 Committee – Mike Kreke  
Jim Kniepmann of Trenton EMS attended the last committee meeting to discuss a radio problem which has been going on for some time. The problem is that the system was customized for one particular tower in the county and there are now three total towers. They are in discussion with someone about updating the towers to mitigate the issues. The first set of aerial images from the flyover in the county have been delivered. The reimbursement for the recent purchase of a third telecommunication station for the county 911 has been received; however, the equipment has not been installed.
- e. Technology Support – James White  
The committee will meet in the near future to review the results from the recent computer system issues.

- f. UCCI – James White  
No Report.

**11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of accounts payable. Taylor seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (No); Middendorff (No); Netemeyer (No); Nordike (No); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 10-4.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- a. Motion to Appoint Duane Kampwerth – Trustee Germantown Fire Protection District
  - b. Motion to Appoint Ted Ahner – Trustee New Baden Fire Protection District
  - c. Motion to Appoint Chris Pederson – Trustee New Baden Fire Protection District
  - d. Motion to Appoint Daniel Ketterer – Trustee Wheatfield Fire Protection District
  - e. Motion to Appoint Daniel Poettker – Trustee Albers Sanitary District
  - f. Motion to Appoint Laverne Zurliene – Trustee Carlyle Southwest Public Water District
- Sullivan made a motion to approve the appointments. Netemeyer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Johnson reported that he has appointed a Reorganization Committee to handle any potential changes to the board with redistricting, which will be based on the results of the 2020 census. Committee members are Mike Kreke (chairman), Brad Knolhoff, Bob Netemeyer, Nelson Heinzmann, Craig Taylor and Dennis Middendorff. Johnson stated that he has received surveys back from past and present board members, and the committee members will use suggestions made in those surveys as a guide. Johnson noted that there will be a delay in receiving Census data, so there may be an extension to the normal deadline to complete the reorganization. Kreke tentatively scheduled a meeting for 5 p.m. on March 9.

**16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021.**

Taylor made a motion to adjourn until Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers  
County Clerk & Recorder