

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
January 19, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.

Robert Fix, Chairman

James Rakers, 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 7:30 p.m. on January 19, 2021. The meeting was held through Zoom and Conference Call.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

3. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 regular meeting. White seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Brad Knolhoff reported on the HB3653 bill that was recently passed. This bill negatively impacts our law enforcement community. He personally feels that we should oppose this bill and drafted a letter to the governor asking him to veto the bill. He read the letter to the board and stated that any other board member that wished to sign the letter was welcome to do so.

Chairman Johnson stated that he would like the board to find a way to do something to show our support for all law enforcement officers. He asked Knolhoff to develop a plan for accomplishing this. He asked the board members to get any ideas to Knolhoff so they can discuss this further at the next finance meeting. He would like to be able to vote on this at the next county board meeting.

6. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

a. George Evans – KC Update and Illinois Connected Communities Grant

Evans gave an update on KC in relation to the pandemic. He stated that KC is holding its own; however enrollment is down approximately 6% for the spring. Enrollment for the fall was down approximately 10%. When compared to the state average for community colleges KC is down approximately 13.9%. For the United States as a whole, Evans reported that community colleges experienced the largest drop across the board at approximately 15%. Evans stated that many students opted to take a gap year which means they didn't attend college at all because of the uncertainty caused by the Covid pandemic. Evans stated they have conducted a marketing campaign aimed at the

gap year students which number approximately 563. Of these students fifty have committed to attending this spring. Evans stated that the college is financially stable. He stated that he is pleased to report that for the fourth consecutive year the college has reduced the tax burden to the property tax owners in the district. Evans distributed copies for each board member of an economic impact study that had been recently completed. He stated that the college does have a significant footprint in the Kaskaskia College District. The district covers nine counties. Evans stated that for the past year he has been serving as the chairman for the education committee of the Southwest Illinois Leadership Council. This is a multi-county organization that is headquartered just south of Collinsville. The council has significant participation from Scott Air Force Base, Ameren Electric, hospitals, and the major universities in the surrounding area. He stated that if you are a major player in the district then you are probably a member of the council. Evans stated that during the first months of the COVID crisis they ran into some problems with the equity issues that are associated with remote learning. He felt that KC did a good job of shifting to a remote environment with their faculty and staff; however, with the students there was the unknown factor of internet connectivity. Evans stated that he was shocked to find out the entire KC district lacks internet connectivity. He feels that approximately 25% of the population of the district lacks internet or has very weak internet. He said the remote learning aspect put a great strain on all students from K-12 and at the college level as well as putting a strain on the parents of the students who may also be working from home. For example, he stated the average home could have four or more devices drawing down the resources of the internet which couldn't handle the strain of this volume. The education committee was fortunate enough to apply for a grant through the Illinois Connected Communities Foundation which helps enhance broadband throughout the state of Illinois. They received a \$15,000 grant to promote awareness and solicit data and support for the next steps. They have had one summit with officials on the federal level. The next summit meeting will be with all the major internet service providers in the southwestern Illinois district. When they have this next meeting they want to be able to present the data that they are collecting via a survey which Evans hopes the board will participate in. The survey consists of questions regarding your connectivity and location. He stated that the more data they have available the stronger case they will have to convince one of the internet providers to expand their connectivity through southwestern Illinois. Evans stated that this is just not happening in Clinton County but in several other counties within the district. He stated that if we can expand our connectivity it will be a win for everyone, not just the schools. It would also help telemedicine and businesses. Evans will send the link to the survey to the board secretary and asks that everyone take the time to complete it. He invited any board members who were interested to the summit meeting next Wednesday, January 27. It is a Zoom meeting and all the major ISP providers will be attending.

7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

a. Recognition of the Telecommunicator of the Year by Sheriff Doug Maue and the Illinois Sheriff's Association

Sheriff Maue stated that every year the Illinois Sheriffs' Association requests nominations from the state's 102 counties for officers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The award is presented at the Sheriffs' Winter Conference in East Peoria

on February 8. Maue nominated telecommunicator Kelly Keserauskis and she was selected for the award. The event that transpired which led to the nomination occurred on August 13, 2020. At 12:59 p.m. the sheriff's office received a 911 call from David Shrum on behalf of his friend, Steve Beimfohr. The men were at Governor's Run Golf Course on the 14th tee box. Mr. Beimfohr had collapsed from an apparent heart attack and Shrum told telecommunicator, Keserauskis, that he was starting CPR. Maue stated that Keserauskis did her job quickly and efficiently. After paging out the ambulance, Carlyle police and the Carlyle First Responders she realized that the medical personnel would not be able to reach Beimfohr at his present location. Keserauskis contacted the golf course and spoke to general manager, Jason Wolf, and alerted him about the situation. She asked him to get golf carts ready for the medical personnel to be able to reach Beimfohr. Mr. Beimfohr has since made a full recovery. Maue then presented Kelly Keserauskis with a plaque for Telecommunicator of the Year by the Illinois Sheriffs' Association.

8. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Craig Taylor

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

i. Annual Housing Report

Taylor stated the only item they have this month is the Annual Housing Report which was in their packets. For county zoning, there were fifty-two building permits issued in 2020. For city zoning, there were fifty-seven building permits issued in 2020. The estimated value of these permits is \$29,967,000.00. This value is based on an average 2100 sq. ft. home at \$150.00 per square foot.

b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike

No Report.

c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan

No Report.

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

The environmental committee met on December 28 to discuss the increased littering that is occurring on the county and township roads. They met with Sheriff Doug Maue to discuss different options for dealing with this issue. They discussed putting up signs on the highway and Dan Behrens is checking into that. As for enforcement, the problem is that the person has to be caught in the act of littering and that is very difficult to do. The committee is also considering putting a press release in the paper.

e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel

Wessel reported the 2020 transfer declarations for sold properties for December was up twenty-two from 2019. He stated the next aerial flight will be completed around the first part of February. Wessel stated that notices were sent out January 6 and the last date to file an appeal is February 5, 2021. The estimated EAV for 2021 farmland increases is \$35.21. Wessel distributed the tentative future farmland assessment. If anyone has any questions, you can contact Linda Mensing, Supervisor of Assessments.

- f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
Heinzmann reported that the insurance committee met on January 14 and at the meeting they presented Miranda Campbell from the Sheriff's department the \$500 Teladoc cash incentive award. Every employee who had signed up to use Teladoc was given \$25 and their name was added for a chance to win the big drawing of \$500 cash. Teladoc is a telemedicine company that allows patients to remotely consult with state-licensed doctors at any time. Nelson reported the health insurance costs for the second month of the new fiscal year without reimbursements were \$107,098.79, which is \$17,904.21 under budget or 14.32 percent under budget. With reimbursements, the costs were \$72,920.46, which is \$52,079.54 under budget or 58.33 percent under budget. The 025 Liability Fund has a balance of \$715,888.70 which is up \$19,151.86 from last month. The 016 Worker's Compensation Fund has a balance of \$66,091.52 which is unchanged from last month. Brad Knolhoff asked about the source of the money that was given out as an incentive for the Teladoc program. Heinzmann stated that this money came from rebates so there was no actual cost to the county.
- g. Facilities Committee – Keith Nordike
Nordike stated that there isn't much going on so, consequently, they never held a meeting this month. He stated that he spoke with Nick Timmermann who is going to get in touch with sheriff Maue in regards to the lighting in the courthouse.
- h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor
Taylor reported that they did some repair work on the doors of the animal control building. He stated that the computer needs to be replaced and they still don't have a credit card. Taylor stated that he contacted Bretz Winery about the parking lot rental at the county farm. He stated there still are no classes being offered for euthanasia training. Taylor reported that Bryanna was able to pick up a pallet of cat and dog food and kitty litter. The committee went over the 2020 stats and over 625 animals were picked up in the 2020 fiscal year. Taylor stated that they had soil samples taken on the county farm ground. They have the results back from the samples and they also have an invoice that has been submitted to the finance committee.
- i. Education Committee – James White
No Report.
- j. Veterans Committee – Bob Netemeyer
Netemeyer stated that according to the news approximately 30,000 servicemen have been called to the Washington DC area due to fears about violence before and during the presidential inauguration. Netemeyer stated that he prays all these people will stay safe and make it back to their families safely.
- k. Finance/Health/Revolving Loan Committee/General Services/Judiciary – Brad Knolhoff
1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Knolhoff reported that he had two additional bills he needed to add in for approval. One is the invoice from Walters Law Office for \$5,631.25 and is the final payment to this firm. The second invoice is from Gateway Nashville FS for the soil sampling at the county farm in the amount \$797.28.

i. Motion - Approval of Monthly Budget and Financial Report Plus Two Invoices

Knolhoff made a motion to approve the report. Wessel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Trame reported that the gaming collected for the month of December was \$5,841.53. Trame stated that they also did the mobile home distributions on January 11 and the total of the distributions was \$50,052.50. The county's share of this distribution was \$5,942.79.

Knolhoff stated that they had someone asked about putting an advisory question on the ballot in a future election regarding term limits for state officials. Knolhoff stated if they proceed with this, they would want to do it a future election not the upcoming Consolidated Election. Knolhoff also reported that the county received \$163,481.00 from the second CARES act disbursement. To date the county has received \$262,334. Some of these funds went towards purchasing new laptops for the county board members along with video equipment for the boardroom to assist in facilitating the ZOOM meetings.

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

Maue reported the radio surveys were sent out and they are still waiting on two to come back. He stated that John Skain informed him that they received \$112,000 for the third radio station which is part of CARES act disbursement.

m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Monthly County Engineer Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens reported that the motor fuel tax rock bids were opened on January 5 for the county and the townships for the upcoming year. Behrens stated that something unusual happened this year. The bid for the slag and riprap didn't arrive until two days after the bid was due. This is their only bidder for this product. After consulting with the state's attorney's office and IDOT it was decided that the bids should remain sealed and were mailed back to the company. Most of the rock bids were awarded to Zachry Farms. Brink Brothers were awarded many of the township bids on the east side of the county. County Board member, Bob Netemeyer, asked why there was such a variation in the price of materials from one township to the next. Behrens stated that it depends on hauling charges and where the hauling company is located.

i. Motion – Resolution to Award Township Motor Fuel Tax Rock Bids

Taylor made a motion for a roll call vote. Rapien 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. Motion – Resolution to Award County Motor Fuel Tax Rock Bids

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.

Behrens stated that they will be rebidding the slag and the riprap in March. Also, the state opened bids on January 15th for the Gibbs Creek Bridge replacement project on Boulder Road. The low bidder was Depew & Owen from Centralia with a bid of \$538,588. Plocher Construction from Highland came in second with a bid of \$555,400. They did receive two other bids. Depew and Owen bid came in slightly under the estimated cost so the state will most likely award the project to them. They have a completion date of the end of June. Behrens reported that they are still looking at how to spend their Rebuild Illinois funds. If they receive all the money they think they will it should amount to \$1.6 million over a three-year period. The county has until 2025 to spend it. The first project they will probably submit to the state is to improve the curves on the Aviston/Albers Road south of Aviston. This project involves adding six-foot asphalt shoulders in areas on the road. Figures are preliminary but Behrens feels the project could cost approximately \$500,000. The second project they are considering is widening of the shoulders on St. Rose Road north of St. Rose. Behrens stated that there has been one sticking point in regards to this project and that is getting Ameren Illinois to relocate their utility poles. Ameren is asking for approximately \$340,000 to move their poles. Wessel stated that Sullivan and Johnson are trying to negotiate with Ameren to determine if there is a more cost-effective way to move these poles. Behrens also reported that the highway department is conducting bridge safety inspections throughout the county and in the townships. He stated that most of these should be completed in January.

n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke

Ms. Towne is retiring on August 20, 2021. The motion is to pay the time on books and not to exceed \$9,964.02. He stated the hours and amount are in line with the contract.

1. Accept Letter of Resignation for Quinzola Towne

Kreke made a motion for a roll call vote. Sullivan 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.

Kreke also reported that Randy Brandmeyer, Chief Probation Officer, has submitted his letter of resignation effective February 19, 2021. There is no vote needed on his resignation payout. He is taking his time, which is 183 days, and putting it toward his IMRF retirement fund.

Kreke stated that they have tentatively set a date for negotiating with the engineers for January 25 at 6:00 p.m.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White
No Report.
- b. County Health – James White
White stated they held a meeting on January 5. They went through the annual numbers for 2020. The Health Department realized revenues of \$994,012.12, expenses of \$880,195.49, for a surplus of \$113,816.63 with total cash on hand of \$1,143,503.84. He stated their lab analysis and clinic fees were higher than budgeted for the year. There were unexpected funds through CURES and contact tracing grants. White stated their employee salaries were also higher than expected due to hiring of the contact tracers. He stated the transition of administrative duties from Sean Eifert to Chris Leidel is going well and they plan to complete this transition by the January 31 deadline. White reported they will be moving into Phase 1B of the vaccine. They are finishing up Phase 1A. They have posted a number to call on their website and on social media to get put on the vaccine list.
 1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report
Netemeyer 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
Brad Knolhoff reported that the first part of the COVID grant money was received. Knolhoff stated they are expecting \$60,000 for the NexGen Grant, most of which will go toward the GIS updates. He stated that one section of the flyover had to be redone and 911 is paying for a portion of the flyover. He stated there was also a brief discussion regarding the radio system for the county.
- e. Technology Support – James White
White reported that they need to get the back wall painted and TV's mounted for a better Zoom setup for meetings.
- f. UCCI – James White
No Report.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

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

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Netemeyer asked if Johnson had received back many surveys regarding opinions on the county board size. Johnson stated that it is going well. Middendorff stated that he feels that we need to move more quickly on this issue. He stated that he has received several requests that the county board authorize an advisory referendum in the next election on the question of the size of the county board. Albers felt that if the date was not already passed it was close and there would no longer be enough time to get it on the Consolidated Election ballot. Knolhoff stated that the Consolidated Election scheduled for April 6 typically has a very low voter turnout and therefore would not provide a true picture of the citizens' opinions on this matter. Sullivan stated that he personally wouldn't change the size of the board. He feels the board is doing a great job and everyone is getting represented. Wesselmann stated that she likes Middendorff's idea of putting an advisory referendum on the ballot and it would give the county residents a voice. Albers stated that there is no cost but we would have had to pass a resolution tonight to be able to get it on the ballot. Albers is going to check into the deadline.

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion – Change February meeting from 3rd Monday of the Month to Tuesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. due to Presidents' Day Holiday.
White made a motion to approve the change. Rapien seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Bryan Wessel – Wessel spoke in support of Dan Behrens County Highway Engineer. He has worked with Dan for a long time and Dan never goes over his budget. Any over time he has is within his budget and his discretion. Wessel stated under Dan's direction overtime has decreased. He stated that Dan runs an extremely tight ship. He even runs the current office with one less person than a few years ago because he never replaced someone that retired. Consequently, that has decreased costs to the taxpayers.
- b. Motion – Appointment of Patrick Netemeyer to the South Central Transit Board Replacing Margaret Conley
Netemeyer asked if this was a paid position and Johnson stated that it was.
Taylor made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of accounts payable. Brad Knolhoff seconded the motion.
Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes); Middendorff (No); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (No); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 12-2.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021.

Taylor made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.
Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder