

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
July 20, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.

Larry Johnson, Chairman

Mike Kreke, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff Dan Travous called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7:50 p.m. on July 20, 2021. The meeting, which was delayed due to the 7 p.m. public hearing on the revised Clinton County Comprehensive Plan, was held with options for Zoom and Conference Call.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Wessel made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2021 regular meeting. Sullivan seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- a. Sheriff Travous recognized 911 telecommunicators Elisha Hamilton and Ellie Macke along with correctional officer Cassi Brickey-Brown for their exceptional work on July 4 handling three serious 911 calls over a 21-minute period. Travous explained that at around 6:11 p.m., the sheriff's department was dispatched to the scene of a two-vehicle accident with injuries on Illinois Route 127, north of William Road. Due to the severity of these injuries, a helicopter response was required. Around the same time, a second call for medical response was received involving a possible heart attack at Dam West Marina, and multiple fire departments in the county were also paged to a working structure fire. Every fire department in the county, with the exception of one, were out working scenes somewhere in the county. Numerous ambulance units were running calls and, at one point, Washington County EMS was staged at the local high school. During this time, the dispatchers, supported by corrections, called for three Arch helicopters and all the ambulances in the county were dispatched. Additional EMS resources were called in from

Washington and St. Clair counties. During all of this, Travous said the employees remained calm, were extremely professional and came together instinctively to handle an overwhelming situation. He said their professionalism in handling the calls is a testament to their skills and the compassion they have for their jobs and the people of this county.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Craig Taylor

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

- i. Motion to Approve – Map Amendment – Rezone three acres from Industrial (I) to Agricultural-Residential (A-R) in St. Rose Township for Timmermann Milk Service. Last month, the board approved a subdivision request for this same property to split off the three acres. This is a request to rezone three acres which directly abuts existing A-R ground.

B. Knolhoff 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 (Absent).

Motion Carried 13-0.

- ii. Motion to Approve – Final Plat – Craig Taylor’s Second Subdivision – 1 Lot – St. Rose Township

The property is a one-lot subdivision in St. Rose Township, located west of St. Rose on Cemetery Road. The property is currently zoned Agricultural, and Taylor would like to split 1.85 acres to allow his son to build a home.

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote. Wessel 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 (Abstain); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent).

Motion Carried 12-0.

- iii. Staser said a lot of information was presented at the earlier hearing for the county’s revised Comprehensive Plan. If anyone has questions, they can call or email her.

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

1. Wessel reported there were 158 parcels for ownership transfers for June which was down six from 2019. Included in the board packets is a comparison of property tax

costs which Supervisor of Assessments Linda Mensing prepared. The calculations are based on a \$150,000 house with a standard owner-occupied exemption. The chart includes the past three tax years and is broken down by city/village. Three townships have completed their assessment work. The Property Tax Appeal Board is still reviewing six cases from 2019, and all evidence has been submitted to the board.

f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that the Insurance Committee met on July 12. Einstein Consulting reports show that insurance costs are down 28 percent compared to last year, pharmacy expenses were up slightly; claims were down 33 percent and total fees were down 37 percent. Bill Schmaltz of Einstein discussed an employee concern about a co-pay with an internist, and the committee approved an amendment to the insurance policy to limit such a visit to a \$20 co-pay. For this Fiscal Year, claims and fees are 16.05 percent under budget without reimbursements and 44 percent under budget with reimbursements. The next committee meeting is 7 p.m. on August 9.

g. Facilities Committee – Ken Knolhoff

1. K. Knolhoff reported that the handicapped entrance to the courthouse was repaired on Monday. The committee discussed the courthouse HVAC system noting that some offices in the courthouse have had AC working just three days a week. He explained that each office has multiple “brain boxes” for the HVAC system and each of the boxes cost around \$1,000. In total, there are about 30 boxes in the courthouse. The committee agreed to move forward with trying to replace the AC in the courthouse. Matt Bydos, a representative of Elliott Data Systems, Inc., gave a presentation to the committee on a plan for a new secure-entry system for the courthouse. This is the same system used at the Sheriff’s Department. He offered a variety of cost estimates, and the county will be seeking bids for this project.

h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor

1. Taylor said that 64 cats were taken in last month with 46 being strays. Twenty-five were rescued, 2 were reclaimed and 37 were pending adoption. There are still issues with people feeding stray cats which makes the problem worse. There were 63 dogs taken in with 8 surrendered, one rescued, two on rabies hold and one put down. There were still 28 dogs available at the end of the month. Animal Control is still looking for another part-time employee.
2. A motion to authorize the Animal Control & County Farm Committee to advertise for bids for a new animal shelter was tabled until next month.

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
 - i. Motion to Approve the Monthly Budget and Financial Report for May.

B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report. Nordike seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Trame reported \$6,375.97 was collected for video gaming last month. The first installment of taxes is due July 28.
 - ii. Motion to Authorize the Treasurer’s Office to do business with all local banks, including the Bank of Clinton County, which recently opened in New Baden. Taylor made a motion to authorize doing business with all local banks. Wessel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - iii. Bo Thomas of Glass & Shuffett gave a review of the Fiscal Year 2020 Audit and Financial Report. The Financial Report includes the auditor’s opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities of Clinton County. No deficiencies were identified in internal control and no compliance issues were found. A separate audit was required this year since the county received over \$750,000 in federal grant money. Total county assets as of Nov. 30, 2020 were \$34,481,124. Liabilities total \$269,273 for a net position of \$34,211,851. New to the audit this year is an Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Consolidated Year-End Report. Thomas also presented the board with a comparison of FY19 and FY20 financials. Cash and Equivalents increased by 12 percent while property taxes decreased by 5.3 percent. Grant dollars increased about 46.3 percent due mostly to CARES Act funding. As for expenses, public health had a large increase at 14.6 percent due to COVID-related expenses. Employee benefits increased 42.5 percent but this is mostly due to insurance claims and the timing of when expenses are paid from one year to the next. Thomas said he was impressed with the cooperation from Trame and all of the county’s department heads.

B. Knolhoff commented that he feels the county should be proud. He expressed appreciation to the current board and prior board members along with the department heads for all of the work they’ve done to decrease property taxes by 5.3 percent while showing an additional \$1.4 million in the bank. Knolhoff said the committee and department heads will again be working with Fred Becker on the FY 22 budget. The committee has discussed working with a third-party firm to help with the administration of the \$7.3 million in American Rescue Plan funding that the county is slated to receive.
 1. Law Enforcement/EMA/Welfare/Safety/Liquor – James White
No Report.

- m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel
 - 1. Monthly County Engineer Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens reported that Depew & Owen Builders will begin the bridge replacement on Pipeline Road in early August with 30 working days to complete the project. Several county highways will be oiled and chipped next month. The Highway Department has submitted final plans for improvement of the curves on Aviston-Albers Road. The department will be allocating \$450,000-\$500,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds to pay for that project, and bid letting will probably be next spring. The CSX Railroad Crossing in Aviston will be closed for 1 or 2 days this week for repairs. Johnson questioned whether rumble strips or some kind of warning could be placed on Boulder Road at its intersection with U.S. Route 50. There have been a couple of serious wrecks recently at that intersection. Behrens said he will look into adding warning strips.
- n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke
 - 1. Motion to Approve – Payout for Dan Travous.

Kreke said Travous had 1,838 total hours with 773 being paid, per contract, and 1,065 being credited to IMRF. The total amount to be paid will be \$27,758.43.
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 (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent).
Motion Carried 13-0.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White
 - 1. Netemeyer reported that the committee is working on budgetary items and will begin holding meetings on a quarterly basis.
- b. County Health – James White
 - 1. 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
 - 1. Kreke reported that the equipment to repair problems with the Trenton 911 tower should be received later this month and should be installed in early August.
- e. Technology Support – James White

No Report.

f. UCCI – Jim Sullivan

1. Sullivan noted that the UCCI Conference will be held in-person this year on July 25 and 26 in Galena.

g. Reorganization Committee – Mike Kreke

1. Kreke said the committee has agreed upon the pay matrix and proposed committees for the County Board which will take effect in December 2022. The information will be presented to the board members for review before the items are brought for a vote. There will not be any committee meetings until the 2020 Census data is available.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Sullivan 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 (Absent). Motion Carried 9-4.

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of Jeremy Weh as a Trustee on the Carlyle Fire Protection District
Wessel made a motion to approve the appointment. Wesselmann seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Nordike made a suggestion that the board consider moving the July meeting to the following week next year to enable board members and their families to participate in fair week activities.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021

Nordike made a motion to adjourn until Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7 p.m. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder