

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
June 21, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Larry Johnson, Chairman

Mike Kreke, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chief Deputy Sheriff Dan Travous called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on June 21, 2021. The meeting 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. 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 May 17, 2021 regular meeting. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- a. Chairman Johnson presented a service plaque to retiring Sheriff Doug Maue for 40 years of dedicated service (1981-2021) to the people of this community and to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office.
- b. A service plaque was presented to retiring Regional Superintendent of Schools Ron Daniels for 10 years of dedicated service in the Superintendent of Schools Office and his many contributions to the betterment of our local education system.
- c. Motion to Approve - Semi-Annual Reports from Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner and County Clerk Vicky Albers.
Kloeckner said the semi-annual report, which covers December 2020 to May 2021, shows that the Circuit Clerk's Office has taken in over \$134,000 more this year than last year. Much of this is attributed to the decrease in tickets issued and filings made at the courthouse last year during the first few months of the COVID pandemic. Kloeckner said his office has taken in over \$35,000 more in bond money this year as compared to last. In 2023, the state is going to eliminate cash bond for most offenses, so the numbers show

there may be a big disparity once cash bond is eliminated. Middendorff clarified that bond money is not actually income for the county but is applied to any fines, costs and restitution that a defendant may incur. He asked if there was some other method that could be instituted to collect a defendant's fine and court costs. Kloeckner said a collection service was established about 9 years ago, and since then, about \$950,000 has been collected. Kloeckner said it's going to get harder and harder to collect fines and court costs since many fee waivers, which are based on income, are also being implemented. It was also noted that restitution, when applicable, is always paid to the victims of crimes first before any fines or court fees are paid.

Reviewing the Fee Transaction Summary Report for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2021, Albers reported a substantial increase in activity in the County Clerk & Recorder's Office. There were an additional 1,400 documents recorded for an increase in recording revenue of \$63,920. Overall transaction totals show an increase of almost \$131,500. Last year at this time, the office had brought in just under \$334,000, and this year, the revenue is over \$465,000.

Heinzmann made a motion to approve both reports. Middendorff seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Jami Staser

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

i. Motion to Approve – Final Plat - Clinton Schmeink Subdivision – 1 Lot – Wade Township

The property is owned by Joseph and Tina Schmeink and they are splitting 1.5 acres from a 77-acre tract to allow their son to build a home. The lot will have access on William Road.

Taylor 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.

ii. Motion to Approve – Final Plat – Kelsey Tucker Subdivision – 1 Lot – Wade Township

The property is owned by Joseph and Tina Schmeink and they are splitting 1.5 acres from a 77-acre tract to allow their daughter to build a home. The lot will have access on Flatbranch Road.

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

Motion Carried 14-0.

- iii. Motion to Approve – Final Plat – Leann Cotton’s First Subdivision – 1 Lot Breese Township

The property is owned by Louie and Joyce Timmermann, and they are splitting 2.62 acres to allow their daughter to build a home. The trend in this area is residential. Directly north of this property is Briar Creek Estates which was developed in the early 1980s.

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote. Strieker 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 – Final Plat – Bill Timmermann Subdivision – 1 Lot – St. Rose Township

The property is owned by William Timmermann and they are splitting 3 acres from a 10-acre Industrial-zoned tract to allow their son to build a home. Staser said subdividing the property is the first step, but the Zoning Board of Appeals and the County Board will still have to approve a rezoning request.

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.

- v. Motion to Approve – Plat of Vacation – Chad Ratermann’s 2nd Subdivision – 1 Lot – Germantown Township

This is a previously approved one-lot family split which the family is vacating to build an agricultural building.

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Nordike 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.

Staser reported that the county’s Comprehensive Planning Committee and SIMPAC have completed the plan update and the next step is a public hearing which will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20, just prior to the regular board meeting. A copy of the plan has been sent to all villages, municipalities and townships. It is also available for review on the county website.

- b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike

No Report.

- c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan

1. Motion – Resolution Approving King Kat Trail Confidential Contract with Outdoor

Promotions, Inc.

The contract is for \$2,500 and the tournament will be at Carlyle Lake in September.

Sullivan made a motion for a roll call vote. K. Knolhoff 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.

2. Motion – Resolution Approving Confidential Sponsorship Agreement with VMD Promotions, LLC.

The contract is for \$3,250 and the money for both sponsorships comes from the Motel/Hotel Tax for Tourism.

Sullivan made a motion for a roll call vote. K. Knolhoff 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.

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

No Report

- e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Wessel reported there were 97 parcels for ownership transfers for May which was up 27. The county's final multiplier is 1.0. The Farmland Review Committee met on May 19 to approve the 2022 farmland values. The tentative future farmland assessment valuations are in a report which Wessel will distribute to all board members. Some township assessors have turned in their work. The Property Tax Appeal Board has six cases, and the evidence has been submitted to the board.

- f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that the Insurance Committee met on June 14. Bill Schmaltz of Einstein Consulting gave updates on the county's self-insurance plan and reported that insurance costs are down 23 percent compared to last year, pharmacy expenses are down 33 percent, fixed costs are down 36 percent and claims are down 9.4 percent. For this Fiscal Year, claims and fees are 8.58 percent under budget without reimbursements and 42.9 under budget with reimbursements. The next meeting is 7 p.m. on July 12.

- g. Facilities Committee – Ken Knolhoff

1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met June 14. Repairs are needed to the handicapped entrance to the courthouse. The bid came in at \$1,700 and it will be repaired as soon as possible. A representative of Elliott Data Systems, Inc. is working on a plan for a secure-entry system for access to several courthouse offices and courtrooms. Elliott will be providing pricing and options. Dennis Moss, head of maintenance, and correctional officer Kyle Thole gave committee members a tour of the

jail and provided recommendations for some needed improvements. Suggestions included adding another regular jail cell and possibly a padded jail cell.

- h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor
Taylor said 37 dogs and 60 cats were taken into Animal Control in May. He reported that gate repairs have been made, and the committee is searching for another part-time employee for Animal Control. They reviewed plans for a new Animal Control Shelter which will serve as a multi-purpose building with storage and an impound lot for the Sheriff’s Department. The plan was originally designed by Netemeyer Engineering in 2005, and the committee is seeking minor renovations to the plan. Taylor said the facility will stay within the same footprint with a few minor changes.
 - a. Resolution - Motion to Approve - Agreement for Professional Services with Netemeyer Engineering to Revise Documents from 2005 for a New Animal Control Shelter.
Rapien 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 (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0.

- i. Education Committee – James White
No Report.

- j. Veterans Committee – Bob Netemeyer
 - 1. With Fourth of July approaching, Netemeyer asked everyone to take a moment to remember the brave men and women who fought to keep us free and enable us to celebrate this holiday.

- k. Finance/Health/Revolving Loan Committee/General Services/Judiciary – Brad Knolhoff
B. Knolhoff said the committee approved utilizing Fred Becker to assist with the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. Becker, who has worked with the county on the budget process for many years, recently retired from Glass and Shuffett Accounting.
 - 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame
 - i. Motion to Approve the Monthly Budget and Financial Reports for May.
Wessel made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report.
Wesselmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
Trame reported that \$9,035.25 was received for oil checks and \$6,634.24 was collected for video gaming. Tax bills are being sent out June 23 or 24. A surplus auction was held in early June to get multiple properties back on the county tax rolls. Thirty-two properties were sold through a sealed bid process that brought in a little over \$78,000.
 - ii. Motion to Approve Resolution Adopting a Fraud, Waste and Abuse Policy for Clinton County.
B. Knolhoff 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.

- iii. Motion - Approve Payment of \$3,200 for Health Department Survey
B. Knolhoff 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.

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

- 1. White said the next meeting is set for 7 p.m. on July 13.

m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wess

1. Monthly County Engineer Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens reported that Depew & Owen Builders completed the bridge replacement on Boulder Road and it was open for traffic on June 4. Depew also has the contract for the bridge replacement on Pipeline Road in Wade Township, and they tentatively plan to start July 9 with 30 working days until completion. Behrens said when the state replaced the bridge on Route 161 over Crooked Creek, they had to do repair work on both Shattuc Road and Noltings Road. In the past when they worked on county roadways, they invited the county to the final inspection; however, in this case, they did not. Behrens said some additional dirt is needed on the west side of Shattuc Road, and the state has promised they will take care of this.

n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke

No Report.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White

- 1. White reported that Dr. Brian Klostermann has stepped down as president of 708 Mental Health and Dawn Kleber has been appointed to fill that position. The board entered an agreement with Sean Eifert to handle administrative duties and the voucher program for 708 Mental Health. The committee is meeting June 30 to review all of the agencies who receive money through the program and how the money is used.

b. County Health – James White

1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report

Netemeyer made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report.

Wessel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

For April, the Board of Health had \$46,299 in revenue and \$95,212 in expenses.

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said this operating discrepancy is

normal for this time of year since it's the end of the grant year. The numbers will even up once applications are submitted for the new round of grants. Total cash on hand is 1,166,253. Over 14,000 county residents, just over 39 percent, have received the COVID vaccine. The statewide percentage is 44 percent.

- c. GIS Committee – Craig Taylor
No Report.
- d. 911 Committee – Mike Kreke
No Report.
- e. Technology Support – James White
 - 1. The committee met to review the current county website design by Serpentine and heard a presentation from former board member Rafael Him of Absolute Solutions for a proposed redesigned website. IT manager John Skain reviewed some of the things the county has done to upgrade cyber security.
- f. UCCI – Jim Sullivan
 - 1. Sullivan distributed information on various UCCI topics including several legislative updates, redistricting and Census information. The 2020 Census data should be completed and available by Sept. 30.
- g. Reorganization Committee – Mike Kreke
No Report.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Taylor made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of accounts payable. White 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

a. Sheriff's Nomination

Johnson said the board has spent a lot of time on this and it's been a tough situation for the entire county. Johnson said, with no offense to Phil Moss, he does not feel it's in the county's best interest to have the coroner serving as the acting sheriff. He said the county is paying Moss a good sum of money for a job that he is not interested in doing. Early last week, Clinton County Republican Central Committee Chairman Marc Hoffman sent Johnson and the board an email stating that he had changed his position and was recommending Dan Travous to fill the vacancy. Johnson asked Hoffman to clarify that the Republican Party, as a whole, is backing Travous. Johnson said he

received the requested clarification from Hoffman and would like to nominate Travous to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Doug Maue.
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.

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Appointment of Terri Linton – Board of Health
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. Appointment of Stacy Albers – Board of Health
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
- c. Appointment of Dr. Deanna DuComb – Board of Health
Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (No), Knolhoff, K (No); Kreke (Yes);
Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (No); Nordike (No); Rapien (No);
Strieker (No); Sullivan (No); Taylor (No); Wessel (No); Wesselmann (Yes);
White (No). Motion Denied 10-4
- d. Appointment of Maynard “Skip” Etter – Clinton County East Public Water District
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

Middendorff clarified that, on the advice of the previous State’s Attorney, if there is a board appointment denied which creates a vacancy in office, that person would continue to stay in office until a replacement is appointed to fill the vacancy.

- e. Motion to Change July Meeting from the Third Monday of Month to Tuesday, July 20th at 7:30 p.m. due to Clinton County Fair/Parade on July 19.
Wessel made a motion to change the meeting date. Taylor seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion to Approve – Resolution in Support of Prairie State Energy Campus.
B. Knolhoff said the state legislature has been actively working to potentially close Prairie State Energy Campus. A lot of the energy utilized in this area by Clinton County Electric Cooperative and several municipalities comes from Prairie State. The power plant was built about 10 years ago and employs about 650 people and

an additional 1,000 tradesmen. It contributes more than \$785 million to our local economy, provides \$47 million to local taxing districts and provides power to 2.5 million families. Ultimately, Prairie State is the base load of all of the electricity in this area. When Prairie State was being built, a lot of electric cooperatives and municipalities issued bonds to help fund the facility. If Prairie State would be closed early, all of these entities would still be responsible for paying these bonds. So, not only would these entities be forced to pay for a new source of energy, they would also be paying off the bonds. B. Knolhoff said it's important to approve the resolution to show state legislators that the county supports Prairie State and is opposed to closing the plant early. B. Knolhoff said supporting Prairie State does not mean that the county doesn't support green energy and other forms of energy; however, right now, those types of alternative energy sources are not prevalent in this area. He noted that Prairie State is one of the cleanest coal-powered power plants in North America. Wesselmann stated that she thinks Prairie State is the seventh largest power plant polluter in the nation. B. Knolhoff said he is no expert on the subject; however, he said those statistics need to factor in the amount of power that the facility generates. Wesselmann said at some point in our lives, we're going to have to address these issues. B. Knolhoff said it's important to realize that if Illinois votes to prematurely close down a modern coal-powered power plant, we're going to be forced to buy energy from Indiana and other areas. Wesselmann feels that with this resolution, the county should make it clear that they are in favor of moving forward with the clean energy movement. Knolhoff said he doesn't believe there's anything in the resolution that opposes clean energy; it is intended to support Prairie State. Without Prairie State, B. Knolhoff said we're going to see utility rates rise and possible blackouts or brown outs since other energy load sources are not sufficient.

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. White seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (No); Middendorff (No); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (No); White (Yes). Motion Carried 11-3.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021

Wessel made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder