

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

March 15, 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 March 15, 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, 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 February 22, 2021 regular meeting. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. State's Attorney Doug Gruenke gave an update on the recent cyber incident. The county's system is now fully restored with the computers at the courthouse and Sheriff's Department fully functioning. He is grateful that the issue was resolved before he leaves office. Gruenke recognized the county employees for stepping up and doing an extraordinary job of keeping the offices running. He commended the County Board for approving the settlements that were necessary to get the decryption keys to unlock the system. He also recognized the IT work of John Skain and Miken Technology who put in long hours working on the servers. The county did have cyber insurance to cover the response from all of the IT firms, the recovery and the ransom. He said some of the rumors circulating that the county would be raising taxes to pay for these costs were just reckless comments by people who spoke without knowing the facts. The county has carried cyber insurance for many years and will continue to do so. No information was lost and there is no evidence of data infiltration as part of the ransomware attack; however, there were some corrupted files requiring IT staff to rebuild the servers to ensure they were clean. Gruenke explained that it was simply that the files were locked and the county had to buy keys to unlock the system. Fortunately, all of the keys worked. If this action would not have been taken, the county's system might still be shut down.

6. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. Glenn Gebke of Germantown asked the board to consider approving a proposed Clinton County Second Amendment Preservation Act. He presented board members with a sample ordinance approved recently in Newton County, Missouri. He noted that former board member, Rafael Him, proposed becoming a Sanctuary County for Second Amendment rights in 2018. Gebke said this ordinance would strengthen anything that the county might already have on the books. Chairman Johnson referred the matter to the Law Enforcement Committee.

7. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- a. Motion to Approve – Annual Probation Report as presented by Chief Probation Officer Carla Stalnaker
Stalnaker said the report numbers are a bit different this year, mostly due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Caseloads were down due to there being fewer court cases and, therefore, fewer clients. Drug testing was down due to not being able to see all clients in person; however, the office still did about 1,000 drug tests. Public service work was put on hold in April 2020 and remains on hold; however, the probation department is trying to find creative ways to assist people with completing their public service hours. Electronic monitoring actually saw an increase with judges putting more people on in-home electronic monitoring due to COVID restrictions. Stalnaker believes this number will continue to stay high especially with the elimination of cash bails in the future. A lot of client work and court cases have been handled through Zoom video conferencing. In spite of all the changes, the office work has continued successfully.
Wessel made a motion to approve the report. B. Knolhoff seconded the motion.
Motion carried.
- b. Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner – Impact HB3653 (In-Person or via Zoom)
Johnson read a report from Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner regarding the impact of HB3653 on the county. Kloeckner stated that one part of the bill, which was recently signed into law by Gov. Pritzker, will abolish the requirement of defendants posting cash bail after January 1, 2023 for most criminal offenses except the most serious and violent crimes. Without question, this unprecedented action – Illinois will be the first state in the country to abolish bail – will have a significant impact on Clinton County’s budget and the court system’s budget, as many local agencies and offices receive disbursements from bond fees. For example, in Fiscal Year 2019, the total amount of bond receipted was \$267,637.99. After bond refunds, \$182,916.27 was reclassified, which means it was disbursed through the Circuit Clerk’s office and distributed to 51 local and state agencies and special funds for the court system. In Clinton County, disbursement of bond money touched 32 different local funds and agencies in 2019, including the Automation Fund, Document Storage, Judicial Security, State’s Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Probation Department, Circuit Clerk’s Office and Sheriff’s Department. Nearly \$30,000 of that bond money was used to pay fines (which goes directly to the city, county and arresting agency) and nearly \$29,000 went to restitution (which goes directly to victims or a business).

8. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Craig Taylor

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

- i. Motion to Approve - Map Amendment from Agricultural (A) to Commercial (C) - Richter Properties Partnership - Germantown Township.

Staser reported that this property is located on Drive-In Road and is a landscaping and excavating business. It is 500-600 feet from the village of Germantown limits and consists of a total of eleven acres with just two acres being rezoned. The property is abutting other commercial property, so it's not out of trend for the area. The Zoning Board is making a recommendation to approve the rezoning.

Nordike made a motion for a roll call vote. Kreke 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 - Joan Willis' First Subdivision – St. Rose Township

This is a four-lot subdivision north of St. Rose on Surge Road in St. Rose Township. Willis is splitting off 6.5 acres with a lot for each of her children to build on. Development of this property is possible through the ag-exemption known as a family split.

Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote. Heinzmann seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (No), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Yes);

Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (No); Rapien (Yes);

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

White (Yes). Motion Carried 12-2.

b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike

No Report.

c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan

No Report.

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

Nordike questioned if there was any progress by the committee on the cleanup of county roadways. Heinzmann said the committee met and is seeking information about the rules for posting signage. Nordike suggested putting out 55-gallon barrels along roadways or possibly near signs to deter littering. White questioned if placing barrels would encourage dumping of trash. Nordike suggested discussing further with local township officials.

e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel

Wessel reported his committee met March 2 and there were 71 declarations for properties sold in February. The year-end total for property transfers was 2,147. The aerial imagery company, Eagleview, was at the courthouse on March 11 for some training. The county's Board of Review will hold hearings March 17 and 18 on 96 complaints.

- f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 Heinzmann reported that the insurance committee met on March 8. Bill Schmaltz of Einstein Consulting gave an update on health insurance and claims. Heinzmann said the county had another good month. Without reimbursements, the county was 12.99 percent under budget, and with reimbursements, the county was 30.99 percent under budget. Representatives from Imming Insurance and Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) attended the meeting to discuss any questions on the county building and contents appraisals. Also, ICRMT gave an update on services offered by the agency, including legal services that are available to the county as part of the policy that is in place. ICRMT can help with grievances and other matters. The next meeting is April 12.
- g. Facilities Committee – Ken Knolhoff
 Ken reported that the air condition unit went out at the courthouse. Mid-Eastern has parts to get the unit repaired for \$3,500 or less. The lights in the courthouse stairwell are not working, and Knolhoff said Kohrman Electric was contacted to get the necessary repairs made. Knolhoff reported that there is a water leak in the County Clerk’s Office and a fine, soot-like substance coming out of the AC vents. Knolhoff was informed that it could be caused by some loose insulation. The Health Department annex has multiple water leaks. He said replacement of a vent, located on the roof, may help with some of the issues. The window on the north side of the building leaks substantially. The Animal Control building is in need of multiple repairs. The next Facility Committee meeting will be April 12. Middendorff said the lights in the stairwells at the courthouse are on 24 hours a day. He suggested changing to a motion-activated system. Wesselmann said she is concerned about the possibility of mold in the buildings with the longstanding water leaks.
- h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor
 Taylor reported that 44 cats and 36 dogs were picked up last month. Eight dogs were adopted, and four were rescued; one cat was reclaimed, four were adopted and 26 were rescued. The Animal Control warden has received her new laptop and the Wifi service will be hooked up soon. Taylor is seeking bids to get repairs done to some kennels and doors at the facility. Last month, Animal Control took in \$840 for adoption fees, \$420 for microchipping, \$445 for reclaimed animals, \$60 for surrendered animals, \$115 for holding fees and \$125 in donations for a monthly total of \$2,005.
- 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. B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 Trame reported that gaming revenue from January was \$3,376.27.
 - 2. B. Knolhoff reported that the Sheriff’s Office is in need of a new Records Management System which records various types of data for the sheriff and links

the sheriff with many surrounding police departments. The sheriff's department has advertised for bids for a new system, and the committee will be discussing more in the future. Knolhoff also explained that the county is entering into an agreement with a new county trustee for tax agent services. The county trustee handles the paperwork on any delinquent properties from the County Tax Sale that are not

purchased by a tax buyer. After the redemption period expires on delinquent properties, the trustee obtains tax deeds on behalf of the county and sells the properties at public auction. These auctions are conducted verbally or by sealed bids.

i. Motion to Terminate the Agreement with Dennis D. Ballinger for Tax Agent Services.

B. Knolhoff are made a motion for a roll call vote to terminate the agreement. 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.

ii. Motion to Approve – Resolution Authorizing Professional Services Agreement with Joseph E. Meyer & Associates, Inc. for Tax Agent Services.

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resolution. 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.

Knolhoff said the committee also discussed drafting a letter to the state legislature urging them to further discuss some of the issues caused by the passage of the criminal justice and police reform bill HB3653.

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

White stated the committee discussed the effects of the cyber-attack. 9-1-1 telecommunicators at the Sheriff's Office are working to enter past reports into the system. The committee viewed results of an Illinois Sheriff's Association survey indicating that 74 percent of the officers polled are considering retirement due to the changes brought on by HB3653; 54.9 percent said they (or their staff) are actively looking for work outside of the state of Illinois; 98 percent of the officers surveyed feel the new legislation will embolden criminals; 87 percent said they feel physically or financially threatened by the new legislation. This is something that is clearly weighing on the law enforcement community, not only from a financial standpoint, but also from a staffing standpoint.

m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Monthly County Engineer Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens said the county had to rebid slag and riprap due to Beelman Truck Co.'s bid not reaching the county in time (due to post office delays). Beelman was the sole bidder on both items. Prices are the same as last year.

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

to Beelman Truck Co.

Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the bid. 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.

- iii. Motion to Approve – Resolution to Award County Motor Fuel Tax Rock Bids. Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resolution.

B. 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.

Behrens said the county plans on opening bids for road oil and asphalt on March 26, and he has heard that the price is going up considerably. On March 30, bids will be opened for the bridge replacement on Pipeline Road in Wade Township. A preconstruction meeting for the bridge over Gibbs Creek on Boulder Road will be held on March 25 and that project has a completion date of June 25.

n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke

1. Kreke read letters of resignation from Sheriff Doug Maue, effective May 28, 2021, and State’s Attorney Doug Gruenke, effective March 26, 2021. Maue said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of Clinton County since 1981. Gruenke said he has had the privilege of being selected as an associate judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Although his time as State’s Attorney was brief, he considered it a great honor to serve Clinton County in that capacity. After conferring with the Republican Party and interviewing three potential candidates, Johnson said the board is recommending Joseph D. Brandmeyer as the new State’s Attorney.

- i. Motion to Approve - Letter of Resignation from Sheriff Doug Maue

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

- ii. Motion to Approve – Letter of Resignation from State’s Attorney Doug Gruenke
Kreke 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.

- iii. Motion to Approve – Appointment of Joseph D. Brandmeyer as State’s Attorney.

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 (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White
No Report.
- b. County Health – James White
 1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report
White made a motion to approve the report. Netemeyer seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
White said the Health Board had some discussion on increasing its tax levy. A joint meeting of the Health Board and Finance Committee is planned for later this week to discuss the finances of the Health Department.
- c. GIS Committee – Craig Taylor
No Report.
- d. 911 Committee – Mike Kreke
Kreke reported that 47 applications, including Clinton County, have been submitted for a portion of \$7.9 million in state grant funding. Hopefully, the county will be successful in securing some of that funding. Over the last three years, since the state of Illinois took over the 911 system, they have taken \$5.7 million out of the coffers for administrative purposes. That money would have normally gone back to the 911 system.
- e. Technology Support – James White
Some of the new laptops for County Board members will be given out this evening and others will be dispersed when ready. The committee has been in contact with some additional cyber security companies to see if any steps should be taken to avoid any future issues.
- f. UCCI – Jim Sullivan
The next meeting of UCCI is March 22.
- g. Reorganization Committee – Mike Kreke
The committee's first meeting was March 9, and the plan is to have everything figured out regarding board makeup and compensation before dealing with the 2020 Census numbers and any potential redistricting.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Sullivan made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of accounts payable. B. Knolhoff seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (No); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (No); Nordike (No); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 11-3.

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion to Appoint Steve Horstmann – Trustee Clin-Clair Fire Protection District
 - b. Motion to Appoint James Orschell – Trustee Sugar Creek Fire Protection District
 - c. Motion to Appoint Brandon J. Wade – Trustee Aviston Fire Protection District
 - d. Motion to Appoint Robert Zimmermann – Trustee Hoffman Fire Protection District
- Heinzmann made a motion to approve the appointments. White seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021.

Wessel made a motion to adjourn until Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7 p.m. Middendorff seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder