

**CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**May 17, 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 p.m. on May 17, 2021. The meeting was held with options for Zoom and Conference Call.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Present: Heinzmann, Johnson, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kreke, Middendorff, Netemeyer, Nordike, Rapien, Strieker, Sullivan, Wessel, Wesselmann, White. Taylor Absent. 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 April 19, 2021 regular meeting. White seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**5. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD**

- a. Pat Riley, vice chairman of the Clinton County Republican Central Committee, spoke regarding the vacancy for sheriff. He noted that the party was fortunate to have two candidates presented to them from which to make a recommendation. Both candidates received votes; however, Brian Vielweber received the majority of the votes. Since the County Board has already voted down Vielweber, Riley said he would like to see the other candidate, Dan Travous, be considered for the position. He said he would like to see any personal issues that someone might have with Travous be put aside.
- b. Jason Meentemeyer, an elected Republican party precinct committeeman for Carlyle 3, said he was not notified that any vote would be taken. But, he said, if the board needs a recommendation from an elected precinct committeeman, he recommends Dan Travous for sheriff.
- c. Dan Travous addressed the board stating that when the board began seeking a replacement for retiring Sheriff Doug Maue, Johnson told Travous that whomever was recommended by the county's Personnel Committee would get a vote in front of the full board. Travous stated that the way he understood it, he had the most votes of the

Personnel Committee, yet Johnson nominated another candidate. Travous asked Johnson to hold true to his words and put his name up for a vote of the full County Board.

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

- a. The Carlyle Street Fair Committee is requesting to use a portion of the courthouse square for its upcoming event. This has been approved in the past as long as the city provides the county with a certificate of insurance.

## **8. STANDING COMMITTEES**

- a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Jami Staser

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

- i. Motion to Approve – Final Plat - Art & Helen Buehne Estates – 1 Lot – St Rose Township

This is a subdivision located east of St. Rose on Quarry Road. The area is already zoned residential and consists of almost 7.5 acres. The Buehnes are requesting to split the property into three lots with the lots being 3.32 acres, 2 acres and 2 acres. The minimum lot size in a Residential 1 District is 1 acre. The Health and Highway departments have already reviewed and signed off on the subdivision. Heinzmann 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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.

- ii. Motion to Deny – Map Amendment Agricultural (A) to Agricultural - Residential (A-R) Brian Holtgrave - Breese Township

Staser stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals voted to deny after reviewing the request and hearing from nine neighbors who presented comments in opposition. A similar request from the property owner was also denied in 2008. Some of the reasons for denial were related to floodplain concerns, accessible water, well water issues and the previous denial.

Wessel made a motion for a roll call vote to deny the request. 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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Present); White (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0; 1 - Present

- iii. Motion to Approve – Resolution in Opposition of SB1602 to Protect Local Control of Zoning and Land Use.

The proposed bill would take away the county's local authority over some zoning and land use issues for renewable energy, specifically wind energy, and there is another similar bill proposed which deals with solar energy. Over 50 counties in Illinois have already passed a similar resolution in opposition to SB1602.

Wesselmann asked how many times the county has denied request for solar fields.

Staser said she believes there have been seven special use permits issued by the county for solar energy. Currently, there are only two in operation. Nordike made a motion for a roll call vote. B. Knolhoff seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (No); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 12-1.

- b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike  
No Report.
- c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan  
The next committee meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. on June. 7.
- d. Environmental Concerns/Unincorporated/Solid Waste – Nelson Heinzmann  
No Report.
- e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel
  - 1. Wessel reported there were 89 parcels for ownership transfers for April which was up 22. The final notices on all property tax appeals were mailed on April 20. The Board of Review signed over its books to the County Clerk on April 28, and the state reports were mailed April 30. The tax process is currently waiting on receipt of the final multiplier.
    - i. Motion to Approve Dismissal of the 2020 Board of Review  
Wessel 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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
- f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
  - 1. Heinzmann reported that the Insurance Committee met on May 10. Bill Schmaltz of Einstein Consulting gave updates on the county’s self-insurance plan and reported that claims and fees are down 38 percent, medical costs are down 28 percent and pharmacy expenses are down 68 percent compared to one year ago. The committee referred a discussion about COBRA rates to the Personnel and Finance committees. A discussion about adding board members to the County Health Plan, if desired, was forwarded to the Reorganization Committee. The next meeting is 7 p.m. on June 14.
- g. Facilities Committee – Ken Knolhoff
  - 1. Knolhoff reported that the Facilities Committee met May 10. There was a discussion about a new animal control/storage building. The plans were actually drawn up 15 years ago; however, Knolhoff said he has since been told that this building is not

going to happen, so the plans will again be laid to rest. Water leaks at the Health Department have been corrected, and replacement ceiling panels have been purchased. New gates were purchased for the Animal Control facility but have not been installed. At the courthouse, water leaks in the State's Attorney's Office have been repaired; repairs are needed for the entry door; and the committee is looking into a key card entry system for the courthouse. Wesselmann asked why the subject was brought up that a new animal control building is needed. Knolhoff said the sheriff's office needed a place to work on and store their confiscated vehicles and an extra storage facility would have worked good for this. Talks of needing a new animal control building have been ongoing for over 15 years. Wesselmann asked the age of the existing animal control facility. She believes it was built in 1942 and is not sufficient for today's needs. Kreke said he does not believe it's that old.

- h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor  
No Report.
- i. Education Committee – James White
  - 1. The committee met on May 6 with Regional Superintendent of Schools Ron Daniels who gave an overview of COVID's impact on the local school system. From a financial standpoint, the local schools believe they will come in under budget. Daniels did announce that he is retiring and is recommending his assistant superintendent Matt Renaud as his replacement. The committee had the chance to meet Renaud and believe he is well qualified for the job. The total amount of money being received by the local school districts in the four counties served by the Regional Superintendent of Schools for COVID relief is over \$78 million.
- j. Veterans Committee – Bob Netemeyer
  - 1. Netemeyer asked the board to take a moment on Memorial Day, May 31, to remember all of the servicemen and women who have served this country to keep us free.
- k. Finance/Health/Revolving Loan Committee/General Services/Judiciary – Brad Knolhoff
  - 1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame
    - i. Motion – Approval of Monthly Budget and Financial Reports for February, March and April.
      - B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report. Middendorff seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
  - 2. Knolhoff said the committee had a busy meeting this month and spent a lengthy time discussing the Personnel Code and possible revisions along with possible uses for COVID relief funding that the county will be receiving. No definite decisions were made.
- l. Law Enforcement/EMA/Welfare/Safety/Liquor – James White
  - 1. The committee met May 11. Sheriff Maue discussed information regarding ID

Networks. All area police agencies have received their packets and the county can move forward. EMA director Tim Schleper is working on grant applications for 2022. The county's Emergency Operations Plan is being revised and will be submitted to the state. There are still plans to sell one of EMA's old squad cars for a pickup truck. The committee discussed a potential impound ordinance but action was tabled. Through the CURES grant, the sheriff's office was reimbursed \$168,670 for the third 911 dispatch station, \$8,817 for the inmate commissary fund, and \$61,192 for court security salaries.

2. Sheriff Maue spoke about the vacancy being created by his retirement. When Maue met with board chairman Johnson a few months ago Maue noted that he wasn't the only sheriff in the state with current plans to retire. Since then Maue has talked to five of the eight sheriffs whom he knows that are retiring and each of them said their vacancy was being filled by their chief deputy. Maue said he would like for the board to consider this as well. Maue said he has nothing personal against Vielweber, but since Vielweber has been voted down, he feels the county's acting chief deputy Travous should be nominated for the position. Maue said he highly recommends Travous who is well qualified and able to immediately take care of this county.
- m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Monthly County Engineer Report – Dan Behrens

The county received bids from four dealers on a new tandem axle dump truck. The low bid that meets the specs was submitted by Truck Centers, Inc. of Troy, IL for a Freightliner 1085B. The price is \$106,367 and includes \$36,000 for the trade in of the county's 2012 International dump truck. The truck will not be available for about a year.

Motion to Approve – Resolution to Approve Purchase of New Tandem Axle Dump Truck form Truck Centers, Inc. of Troy, IL.

Wessel 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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.

Behrens reported that as part of the federal COVID Relief Package, the county highway department will have an additional \$168,984.08 added to its federal funding. This money will have to be spent according to the existing federal policies, so this money will be added to another existing project. The money must be spent by Sept. 30, 2024 and may be used to help finance the resurfacing of the Breese-Germantown Road. The county intends to add three feet of paved shoulder to each side of the road. As for the county's Rebuild Illinois project, the county has submitted plans to widen the shoulders along the curves on Aviston Road from Highline Road south to the bridge. The next project with Rebuild Illinois funding

will likely be replacement or rehabbing of a bridge south of Albers. The bridge replacement on Boulder Road over Gibbs Creek is on schedule and the contractor will be completed by the end of June.

Nordike asked what kind of program the Highway Department has in place for a resident who calls in to have a culvert replaced. Behrens said the property owner's name is put on a list, and the department will visit the site. If it's determined that the culvert is in bad shape, the county will replace it. If they want to add a new culvert, the property owner has to pay for the materials. That is how the process is done; however, there is no program, per se, in place. Nordike asked if the county engineers go onsite and shoot grades so that the work is done correctly. Behrens said most of the time the culvert is installed to meet the flow line of the existing ditch, or if it's a replacement culvert, it is put in the same as before. Behrens said that for an isolated culvert project, there is typically no engineering work done. If it's a larger project, engineering work may be required.

n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke

1. Motion to Approve Tom Ellis Payout

The payout includes 51.5 hours at \$33.11 per hour for \$1,705.17, which is according to contract, and 453.5 hours will be credited to his IMRF/SLEP retirement funds.

Ellis recently retired from the Sheriff's Office.

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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes);

White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.

2. Motion to Approve Appointment of Matt Renaud to Finish Term of Retiring Regional Superintendent of Schools Ron Daniels.

Johnson is asking for the board's permission to cast the county's votes for Renaud and made the nomination.

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

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

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

White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.

3. Motion to Approve – Nomination for Sheriff – No action taken

Johnson asked Middendorff to speak on his behalf to explain his actions so far regarding filling the sheriff's vacancy. Nordike said that he had a comment to make before Middendorff speaks. Nordike said he has been addressing issues at the Highway Department for some time because he feels there are problems with management. Nordike said he received a phone call from Johnson Wednesday night to purportedly discuss Nordike's issues with the highway department. Nordike said Johnson told him that if he wanted these highway issues resolved, he would have to

switch his vote for the sheriff's nomination to Brian Vielweber. Nordike said he told Johnson "no," stating that this is not the way he does things. Nordike said he feels like he was being bullied and that it was a misuse of power by Johnson. Johnson said Nordike has caused problems for the county as well, and the county cannot do some of the things it would like to do because of Nordike's prior actions.

Wessel asked whether Vielweber and Travous were at the meeting at which the Republican Party voted to nominate Vielweber. He also asked how many people were at that meeting. Riley responded that four people were present. Precinct Committeeperson Jason Meentemeyer was unaware of the meeting. Riley said that going into the meeting, he knew that the vote would likely be split 2-2. Riley said board chairman Johnson and vice chairman Kreke were also in attendance and offered information on both candidates; however, they provided more information on Vielweber. After hearing the comments, the vote shifted to 3-1 in favor of Vielweber.

Johnson again asked Middendorff to speak. Middendorff said there is a process for selecting a candidate to fill a vacancy for an elected official as well as a state law which governs how the process should work. When any elected official in mid-term announces they are leaving and there is a vacancy in office, the board is required to notify the party of which the official is affiliated. In this case, the Republican party was notified. The party sets its own guidelines as to how the recommendation is made. Middendorff said he was surprised to find that the Republican party only has five or six precinct committeemen in place. When Mike Kohlbrecher was elected treasurer, he became an insurance agent and the Democratic party at that time replaced him with Hoz Kueper. This process has continued throughout the years. Middendorff said it's mostly a tradition; however, there are good reasons that it has never been broken and it provides an orderly process for how vacancies are filled. Middendorff said that the vacancy should have never been brought before the Personnel Committee. He said that if the Republican party made a mistake in the process, than any questions or concerns should be addressed with the Republican party.

Heinzmann said that when the county had a vacancy for State's Attorney, the potential candidates were voted on by the Personnel Committee and the committee's recommendation was brought before the full board. He asked if that was not the same process that the board is going through now. Middendorff responded that yes, it is the same process, but the action of bringing it before the Personnel Committee was wrong at that time as well. The Republican party, in that instance, nominated J.D. Brandmeyer and that is why his name was brought to the board. Johnson said he made the mistake of bringing it before the Personnel Committee. He said that he has followed the statute all the way through, and, in his mind, there is no way that any of the board members should vote "no" on the nomination for Vielweber.

Johnson said Vielweber is a viable candidate and his resume was superior to the resume that Travous submitted. Johnson said he does not want to be the County Board chairman who breaks the tradition of nominating who the party recommends.

K. Knolhoff commented that Johnson said there should be no reason that the board members should vote “no” and that they should follow his recommendation. K. Knolhoff asked why the board members are even given a voice or an opportunity to vote if they are forced to follow what Johnson says. Johnson said the only reason that anyone should have voted against Vielweber is if Johnson was doing something illegal or if the Republican party was recommending someone who was not capable of the job.

Brian Walsh spoke about the qualifications of Travous and Vielweber. He said that as an observer, who was present at the Personnel Committee in question, Travous had a degree in law enforcement, has operated a jail, has managed a substantial budget and a scheduling system, while Vielweber has not. Walsh said Johnson is stating that Vielweber is more qualified; however, he does not understand how Johnson can make this statement. Johnson said he never said Travous was not qualified for the job but that his resume was not as good.

Sullivan presented a synopsis from UCCI of how the vacancy in office should be filled. He said in one paragraph it says that when the office of the sheriff is vacated, the chief deputy sheriff, or undersheriff, is designated by the sheriff to fill the vacancy. Or, if no designation is made, the coroner of the county shall perform all the duties required by law to be performed by the sheriff.

## **10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White
  1. White said that Dr. Brian Klostermann is seeking a replacement to serve as chairman of the 708 Mental Health Board.
  
- b. County Health – James White
  1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report

White said COVID vaccinations have slowed down in the county. There were very few first doses administered in the past few weeks. As of April 29, 32.9 percent of the county’s population was fully vaccinated. Counting residents who have received their first dose, over 34 percent of the residents have been vaccinated. The state is currently at 30 percent. The survey for the parcel of land for the new health department is complete and the Health Board will be meeting with the architects to review the initial plans for the building.

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  
No Report.
- e. Technology Support – James White
  - 1. Motion -Resolution Approving a Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement with James Pederson and Authorizing its Execution. Pederson will be reviewing the county’s recent cyber security attack.  
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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
- f. UCCI – Jim Sullivan
  - 1. Sullivan said the UCCI Committee will meet this month via ZOOM; however, in-person meetings in Springfield will begin next month.
- g. Reorganization Committee – Mike Kreke
  - 1. Kreke said the next meeting is 6:30 p.m. on May 24.

**11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Heinzmann 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 (No); Netemeyer (No); Nordike (No); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 9-4.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- a. Motion to Appoint Janet Heimann – Board of Review
- b. Motion to Appoint Wayne Kiefer – Board of Review
- c. Motion to Appoint Dennis Hempen – Trustee Keyesport Fire Protection District
- d. Motion to Appoint Steve Tebbe – St. Rose Public Water District
- e. Motion to Appoint Karl Klostermann – St. Rose Public Water District  
Sullivan made a motion to approve the appointments. Middendorff seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Motion to Enter Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to Discuss Pending Litigation  
B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Wesselmann 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 (Absent); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
- b. Motion To Return to Regular Session at 9:18 p.m.  
B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Netemeyer seconded the motion. Motion Carried
- c. Motion to Approve a Settlement Agreement on Pending Litigation with the county contributing a dollar amount not to exceed \$10,000. With that, the board asks that its counsel try to negotiate a confidentiality clause to avoid disparaging the county publicly in any form.  
B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Wesselmann 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 (Absent); Wessel (Absent); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0.

**16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021**

Netemeyer made a motion to adjourn until Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7 p.m. White seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers  
County Clerk & Recorder