

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting

Clark County

August 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the County Board met August 18, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. and was called to Order by Chairman Rex Goble. County Clerk Laura Lee led the pledge of allegiance. Sheriff Bill Brown led the meeting with a prayer.

ROLL CALL

8:00 A.M.

Rex Goble

District #1

Brandon Burkybile

District #2

Jim Bolin

District #3

Randal Stephens

District #4

Susan Guinnip

District #5

Todd Kuhn

District #6

Mike Parsons

District #7

Carrie Miller with the Lions's Tribe Academy spoke to the Board regarding her mission. She reported that she has 28 students currently enrolled. There are 16 elementary and 12 in pre-school. Carrie stated that the school is nature based, project based, and faith based. The intent is to provide a learning environment that is tailored to the unique needs of the student. The Academy teaches 1st through 6th grade and has before and after school care for students as well. Carrie stated that this is the first of this kind of schooling in the county. The school is currently being held at New Rivers Church due to needing a fire sprinkler system. She is asking the board for help in purchasing a fire sprinkler system in the amount of \$48,000, or monthly contributions to help with tuition expenses for families that cannot afford it or for an annual commitment. The Academy currently has 6 employees and 2 people that are currently unpaid. There is a family from Casey and Martinsville that are enrolled. Some of the students stood up and talked about why they love Lions Tribe Academy.

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Randal Stephens to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2023, regular Board Meeting. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Public Comments:

Jeff Wallace spoke to the board, supporting the ambulance service and Jason Wimbley. He said we are here to support the community. Jeff is a small business owner and knows how the support of the community is very beneficial. Wallace is a firm believer in hiring from within and afraid of the message that is sent.

Andrew Hargrave also spoke in support of Jason Wimbley. He and his wife are co-owners of United Lifecare Ambulance Service in Crawford County. He stated that they had gone through a similar situation in which their business partners brought in an outside person to manage and they lost all their good employees. Once the managers left, the employees came back. He stated that he is on the phone weekly with Jason Wimbley and when a tornado went through the Robinson area, Jason asked him how many ambulances do you need? Andrew stated if you hire someone from outside of your community, you could lose your own qualified personnel to other agencies and that ambulance services, in general, are in need of employees. Your people will go elsewhere.

Jennifer Hargrave, wife of Andrew Hargrave, is the co-owner of United Lifecare Ambulance Service

and the Contracted Manager for Jasper County Ambulance Service. She has also been an EMS consultant to other regional agencies. She stated that she does not know Wimbley personally but knows him professionally but if the County goes with an outsider, could be detrimental. She stated that it needs to be kept local and that our citizens could suffer. There is already a shortage of EMS staff and if the County loses theirs, she will gladly hire them.

Warren LeFever gave a report to the county board on how property taxes are too high and need to be lowered. He also commented on how when he "called" to ask questions he was told he had to send a FOIA request the information since it was so involved. He stated that the County is carrying over too much surplus and that the levies must be reduced for the good of Clark County. LeFever has chaired two censuses for the County and high taxes destroy rural communities. The west side of the County has lost a lot of population and feels that we could lose even more before the next one. People don't move in due to the high taxes. He says that it has nothing to do with the assessments, just the levies. The County levies need to be reduced.

Jason Wimbley spoke next. He appreciates all of the support that is being shown and told the board that he understands that this is a difficult decision and need to do what's best for the County. He thanked everyone and understands business is business and no hard feelings.

Adam Webb, the EMS manager with Horizon Health, also spoke in favor of Jason Wimbley. He has worked closely with Wimbley on a couple of projects. EMS is in a staffing crisis and Jason has a loyal following and understands the operations. His concern is that if the County alienates the current staff, being in a rural area, makes it very difficult to find new employees. He would offer Jason a job right now and would encourage the Board to reconsider their decision.

Motion by Jim Bolin and second by Todd Kuhn to approve the General Claims. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Highway:

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Randal Stephens to approve the County Highway Claims. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye" except for Jim Bolin who abstained. Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

County Highway Engineer, Dallas Richardson, proceeded through his agenda. The first item is the HSIP Clarksville Rd / Angling Rd project. Richardson stated that everyone who travels the Clarksville blacktop should notice that quite a bit of work has been completed this summer. Oil and chipping plus some patching have been started. They started in the northeast part of the County and moving west. Mowing will begin around harvest time. In new business, Dallas spoke with the State regarding the Highway 40 bridge work and was told it should be done soon and should open next week sometime. The County Highway Department is in discussions with IDOT regarding repairs for Arbuckle Road.

Motion by Brandon Burkybile and second by Jim Bolin to accept all Office Reports. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted. (See attached).

New Business:

Curtiss Cline the Marshall High School Civics Instructor reported to the county board that his Civics class has a new program in which to increase civic and community participation beginning in our citizens formative years. Previously, the program required students to do 10-12 hours of community service but that does not provide an understanding of the workings of government. It is Mr. Cline's goal for the students to have a better understanding of government and to benefit from this knowledge. This includes students attending a county board meeting. The students will be required to have an attendance questionnaire that would be signed subject to the student meeting the behavior, dress, and proper decorum. The school administration has approved for the students to attend during school hours.

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Randy Stephens to Approve to increase the size of the 708 Board from 7 to 9 members. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Motion by Todd Kuhn and second by Mike Parsons to Approve Ordinance 2023-01 Administrative Order for full-time Public Defender. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Motion by Randy Stephens and second by Mike Parsons to Approve Ordinance 2023-17 Establishing a County Cannabis Retailer's Occupation tax in County of Clark. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye" except for Jim Bolin who voted no. Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Next on the agenda is a discussion about the Dog Pound regarding contracts with the cities and to update the signage for the dog pound. Tammy See stated that the signage to direct individuals to the dog pound are not enough when coming from different directions. Dallas Richardson said that the Highway could make signs or order from a company.

Motion by Todd Kuhn and second by Mike Parsons to Approve additional Dog Pound Signage. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

There was additional discussion regarding the contracts with the cities for animal control services. Tammy See said that she had presented the Board with what she feels should be in the contract for each city but hasn't heard anything back. Chairman Goble said that he didn't know that Bender's were charging each city an annual amount until the County wanted to charge a fee to haul the dog to the pound. Warren LeFever, city alderman, stated that it was his opinion that the dog owner should be the one to pay the cost of hauling and housing the dog. It was decided for the committee to discuss options and come back to the full Board. See stated that she is in need to have someone look at the hot water heater and to upgrade the electric. See was given permission to make contact to have the repairs completed.

Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Marshall Fire Protection District for Ambulance Service was tabled until August 22, 2023, for a Special Board Meeting at 8 a.m.

Old Business:

Before the vote to approve the agreement, Joey O'Rourke spoke to the Board. He stated that there are going to need to be some upgrades and a tricky situation with electric. Currently the bill is in the Dahnke's name. He said that the County would want their own meter. Chairman Goble said the the Dahnke's don't want people working out there during their busy season. The monthly total cost would be \$1,170 to lease the space.

Motion by Brandon Burkybile and second by Mike Parsons to Approve Tower Lease Agreement with WMMC Radio. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Meg Steward re: Marshall Learning Center: No Show

Board Member Parsons said that it had been brought to his attention that the water in West Union has PFAS in it. Eddie McFarland with the Health Department stated that with this being so new, the government is still trying to come up with a recommended threshold. The Health Department has been in contact with IDPH and the EPA. Also said that some private wells have been affected too. There is a filtering system that can be purchased for approximately \$30,000. Boiling the water does not remove the contaminants.

Chairman Goble asked the auditor, Carol Holbert, to help answer questions that Warren LeFever has asked. Holbert stated that she does work for the County and that she did assist Treasurer Kannmacher with his FOIA request. Holbert responded that if his questions could be more specific, and that as the auditor, she needs to remain independent.

Appointments:

None

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Board Member Mike Parsons to go into executive session and second by Board Member Randy Stephens at 9:16 a.m. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the meeting to go into executive session for provision 5ILCS 120/2 © (1) regarding Ambulance Salaries and Personnel.

CLOSED MEETING CERTIFICATION: CLARK COUNTY

I certify that I understand Section 2 of the Illinois Open Meeting Act and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, no other topic was discussed during the closed meeting, or closed portion of the meeting, in violation of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

/s/ Rex Goble, Presiding Officer

Motion by Todd Kuhn and second by Mike Parsons to come out of Executive Session at 9:58 a.m. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Motion by Randy Stephens and second by Todd Kuhn to approve the hiring of Ambulance Coordinator Troy Armstrong contingent upon signing of the contract with Marshall Fire Protection

District. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Committee Reports:

Susan Guinnip introduced Lindsey Vogt with Farm Bureau to speak about wind projects in the County. There was a meeting at the Farm Bureau with representatives from the companies that are interested in constructing wind farms in Clark County. The representatives explained the area that they are looking at and that they are wanting to get 20,000 to 30,000 acres under lease before moving on with the next steps. They are the only companies that have met with Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau will not pick sides but want the landowners to be educated about the leases and what to look for. A majority of the County landowners have been approached. The companies from this meeting are interested in Martinsville and south. Guinnip stated that Farm Bureau is encouraging landowners to have an attorney look over the lease before signing. Basically, the whole county is being looked at for wind and solar projects.

Board Member Parsons stated that he would like to see the cannabis tax funds go to the Mental Health Board. Bolin stated that he voted no due to the County Board voting no to sale of cannabis and didn't feel right about collecting from the corporated areas of the County. Board Member Kuhn inquired about the opioid funds.

Chairman Goble stated that the remodel of the Martinsville ambulance building has run into some issues and may go over the amount requested. Some of the ARPA funds may have to be diverted to it. The HVAC system needs to be replaced and upgrade the electrical and add a generator in case there is no electricity, the garage doors can be opened.

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Jim Bolin to approve the Preceding Bills. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye" except for Todd Kuhn who abstained. Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Motion by Susan Guinnip and second by Brandon Burkybile to approve One Day and Mileage Claims. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Motion by Susan Guinnip and second by Todd Kuhn that the meeting be adjourned until August 22, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. for the Special Board Meeting. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jason Wimbley - Clark County Ambulance; Dallas Richardson - County Engineer; Ami Shaw - Circuit Clerk's Office; Laurie Lee -County Clerk; Bridgette Remlinger – Supervisor of Assessments; Warren LeFever—Marshall City Alderman; Eddie McFarland – Health Department; Tammy See, Animal Control; John Donham, ; Kyle Hutson – State's Attorney; Gary Strohm – Strohm Newspapers; Peg Mills; Adam Webb – Horizon Health Ambulance; Jeff Wallace – Clark County Park Board; Anthony Duvall – Clark County Ambulance; Mike Bridges – Marshall Fire Protection District Ambulance; Curtiss Cline – Marshall High School; Bill McGrath – Public Defender; Carrie Miller et al – Lions Tribe Academy; Art Miller, Carol Holbert – auditor; Lindsey Vogt – Farm Bureau; Andrew and Jennifer Hargrave – United Lifecare Ambulance Service; Sue Snedeker; Jenny Winschief; Maurice Wimbley; Amanda Landrus – Marshall Fire Protection District Ambulance; Jen Thompson – WTWO, Lori Carpenter – Marshall Fire Protection District Ambulance.