

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting

Clark County

July 19, 2024

The regular meeting of the County Board met July 19, 2024, at 8:00 A.M. and was called to Order by Chairman Rex Goble. Deputy Clerk Loretta Nelson 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

Motion by Jim Bolin and second by Mike Parsons to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2024 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:

Warren LeFever was the first with public comments. He started off by stating that he wanted to praise the County Board for two actions that were done. First was the meeting on the Courthouse steps in April of 2020 and the passing of the resolution to not fund immigrants coming to Clark County. LeFever talked about a book called "Unhumans" "that is about political strategy and the deception thereof". He said that the way you control political strategy that is designed to suppress you is to stand firm even if those actions are against the Federal or local government. LeFever told of an experience from when he was in the Special Forces in the 1960's. In 1967, US Special Forces trained some of Spain's Special Forces. Spain was an ally during the Cold War and taught them how to use our parachutes. There was a CO from Spain that took a shine to LeFever and they talked about Francisco Franco. The CO explained that all of the news about Franco in US was wrong and that is how Spain became an ally. When the County Board makes a stand, they are doing the best for their constituents.

Next under public comments was John Grubb, Field Representative with Laborers Local 159. Grubb wanted to let the Board know that the Union encompasses eight counties and 153 of the 900+ members live in Clark County. He stated that the solar farms provide an opportunity for income, retirement and more for Clark County Union Members.

The New Business (b) was moved to this point of the meeting due to time constraints for City Clerk Nancy Smitley. She presented Ordinance #2024-04 for discussion. This is an expansion request for Sassafras Ridge that is West of Marshall on Route 40.

Motion by Todd Kuhn and second by Brandon Burkybile to approve the addition of Sassafras Ridge to the Clark County Enterprise Zone. 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).

Motion by Jim Bolin and second by Brandon Burkybile 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.

Motion by Randy Stephens and second by Mike Parsons 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 the guardrail on the Angling Road is complete and once they finish up the seeding, the project will be wrapped up. On the Hogue Town project, the Highway Department is still working through the right-of-way issues. Letters have been sent to all the landowners in the area and most seem positive. Plans for the construction of the new building are coming along. There have been a couple of meetings since last month to work through coordinating utilities, etc. Next on the Highway Agenda is the Resolution to accept bid for the HFE-300 Oil Letting. Richardson informed the Board that the price was \$.05 cheaper than the previous year at \$2.62 per gallon. This is used for the patch mix.

Motion by Susan Guinnip and second by Mike Parsons to approve the HFE-300 Oil Letting Resolution. 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).

Richardson said that he had no new or old business. Board Member Stephens said he had been approached by residents regarding road repair down by Darwin. Richardson stated that he has received the road repair report but hasn't had time to meet and discuss with them.

Motion by Randy Stephens and second by Brandon Burkybile 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:

The New Business agenda was re-arranged. Item #11 © was moved up.

New Business Item #11 © is to discuss and approve for Chairman Rex Goble to Sign Closing Documents as Representative for Clark County for the sale of the Ambulance Building in West Union.

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Randy Stephens to approve Chairman Rex Goble to Sign Closing Documents as Representative for Clark County for the sale of the Ambulance Building in West Union. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Agenda Item #11 (d) is next. Sheriff Bill Brown addressed the Board regarding the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for the Sheriff's office, E911, and the Clark County Ambulance Service. Currently, the Sheriff's office pays HRC for this service out of their budget. Sheriff Brown and Jonathan Burns with HRC spoke about the addition of 911 and the ambulance service for this benefit. Each department faces traumatic events, and this provides an outlet for coping and dealing with the trauma and not letting it build up. This service provides 10 counseling sessions for each individual that is included in the list given to HRC. Sheriff Brown stated that he pays \$2,500 per year to HRC and wants to include the 911 and ambulance departments in the future. Sheriff Brown is asking the Board to consider if this could be a line item as opposed to coming out of each department's budget.

Sheriff Brown is also presenting Agenda Item #11 (e) which is Courthouse Security. He spoke with Judge Resch about security. Brown has investigated pricing for a walk-through metal detector and a handheld detector and could purchase these items within this year's budget. As far as staffing, it could work with one additional staff member. This has been mentioned every year in the County's risk liability report. Sheriff Brown stated that he does not want to purchase this without ensuring that he can hire the staff needed to man the detector.

Agenda Item #11 (a) was presented by Judge Resch. He was explaining about the Electronic Court Recording System for Clark County. The system has been installed over the last couple of months and has been installed by the administrative office of Illinois Courts. The installation of these systems is going on all over the State. This system is top notch. Both courtrooms have the system that includes cameras and microphones. Brandi Repp has been hired as the Court Specialist and her office is located by the Board Room. She monitors what is being recorded in both courtrooms and annotates details while she is watching. Also, if someone requests a transcript, Brandi can quickly provide one. The system does not replace a court reporter in all instances. The Supreme Court defines that a court reporter must be used in felony cases, adoption and juvenile proceedings. The system is funded and maintained by the State.

Old Business:

The only item under old business is discuss and approve sirens for the West Union and West York area. Chace Bramlett, the Ambulance Director, met with Dane Tally, the County EMA Coordinator and brought Tally up to date about the information that he had gathered regarding sirens. Bramlett stated that if the County wants to do this, then the system needs to be ordered. There is a 120-day turnaround time. He stated that the County would have to run power to the sirens and is not included in the quoted price. Ameren had told Karen Young, York Township Supervisor, that they would donate poles, but they are not up to the federal standards and using them would incur more expense in the long run. Chairman Goble stated that if the Board decides to do this, he didn't want the County to be responsible for activating the sirens. Bramlett also said that Paris is the closest transmitter station and that is where the activation is to be done. Bramlett was asked what the cost would be for the two sirens, and it was \$71,500. Stephens asked about who is responsible for the maintenance of the sirens. This was discussed at length and was decided to move forward with the purchase and retain ownership and maintenance of the sirens.

Motion by Mike Parsons and second by Jim Bolin to approve purchasing the sirens for West Union and Old York and retain ownership and maintenance. The Chairman put the question and upon the roll being taken all members present voted "aye". Whereupon the Chairman declared the motion adopted.

Appointments:

Motion by Susan Guinnip and second by Mike Parsons to re-appoint Jeff Yoder to the North Fork Conservancy District. This is a five-year term and will expire 08/21/2029. 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 Mike Parsons and second by Susan Guinnip to re-appoint the following to the Harrison Cemetery Board: Randy Higginbotham, Machelie Higginbotham, and Randy McGinnis. This is a five-year term and will expire on 8/15/2029. 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 Brandon Burkybile to re-appoint Valerie Jones, tenant, to the Clark County Housing Board. This is a one-year term and will expire on 8/1/2025. 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 Jim Bolin and second by Mike Parsons to appoint Thomas A Daughhete to replace Bailey Maulding on the Southeastern Illinois Economic Development Authority Board. This term expires on 9/1/2025. 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 Jim Bolin and second by Susan Guinnip to appoint Thomas Daughhete to replace Bailey Maulding on the Discover Downstate Illinois Board. 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:

Bramlett talked to the Board about the Ambulance Service. He said that there were approximately 50 more calls in June 2024 than in May of 2024. Bramlett stated that they are picking up more of the inter facility transports and that the call volume was very high. The enroute to arrival on scene time was impressive with 99 calls at 5 minutes or less. There was a deep dive into the collections, and it was discovered that the billing company has money sitting waiting to be disbursed but not sure how to click on the right button to get the funds. This will be taken care of by the next Board Meeting. Bramlett has the Payor of Last Resort contract has been approved and will meet with Sarah Bush for signature. The transports allow the County to earn more income and Bramlett informed the Board that there were a couple more hospitals that wanted to sign on with Clark County.

Chairman Goble on behalf of the Board commended all the County and surrounding Counties agencies for their dedication and expertise in handling the drowning of a young man by West Union. Bramlett stated that there was an after-action meeting and was used by all to decompress. HRC provided the support that was needed after the traumatic event.

Board Member Bolin asked if the County is still considering hiring an IT person. He stated that he knew someone who would be interested and how to go about the process of hiring. This will be a discussion at budget time.

Bolin also asked Lisa Richey, Supervisor of Assessments, if it is true that the State of Illinois is mandating a 28% increase on the assessed value. Richey answered that yes, it is their recommendation for the 2024 year payable in 2025. Bolin then stated that if Richey does not follow the mandate of the State, then the County would not be reimbursed for half her salary. Richey replied that the State could adjust the values and not pay the salary reimbursement. EAV is based on the last three years of sales. Bolin is asking for extra time with Richey at budget time to educate the Board on how the process works. If the State can mandate to the individual counties, then it allows for the State to borrow more money. This issue will be discussed in more detail in the future.

Board Member Brandon Burkybile introduced Terry Sullivan and Brian Reid. They came to talk about the BEAD program which provides broadband to unserved or underserved areas. There is a Federal Grant and Illinois received \$1.04 Billion. Clark County is one of the least served counties in Illinois for fiber optic in rural areas. The grant funds go to the vendors that would be laying the fiber optic lines and provide the internet service. Board Member Burkybile stated that he knows that this is a heavy

lift for the County to do in a short amount of time. Sullivan stated that the County can use more than one vendor to do the work. Board Member Guinnip expressed concerns about the reliability of just having one vendor and what happens if the company doesn't survive. There will be another chance to submit an application and there are other grants for which the County can apply.

Board Member Bolin let the Board know that the ITEP Grant can be resubmitted for the bike and walking trails. Before submitting, the application will need to be updated and a fee of \$6,000 will be required. If Clark County is approved, then the County's portion to build the trails would be \$279,000 over the next two years, if approved. The total grant is \$1.4 Million.

Board Member Mike Parsons informed the Board that the telephone pole has been moved at the dog pound.

Motion by Todd Kuhn and second by Brandon Burkybile to approve Preceding Bills. 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 Susan Guinnip 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 Randy Stephens that the meeting be adjourned until August 16, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. for the 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. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chace Bramlett - Clark County Ambulance; Dallas Richardson - County Engineer; Loretta Nelson – Deputy Clerk; Lisa Richey – Supervisor of Assessments; Warren LeFever—Marshall City Alderman; Eddie McFarland – Health Department; Nancy Smitley – Marshall City Clerk; Kim Kannmacher – Treasurer; Dane Tally – EMA; Bill Brown – Sheriff; Gary Strohm – Strohm Newspapers; William McGrath – Public Defender; Terrence Sullivan – EIU internet; Brian Reid – EIU; Jon Grubb and Jason – LIUNA 159