

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY
ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN
TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS ON **March 20, 2024**
ATTEST: JODIE L. BADMAN, COUNTY CLERK

The following proceeding had and entered at large upon the records of said Board, which is done accordingly in the following words and figures to wit;

Chairman Bryan Sharp called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clint Epley led Invocation this evening.

ROLL CALL

The roll call, by County Clerk Jodie Badman, showed David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg and Clayton Walter as present. David Puccetti was absent. A quorum was had to hold the meeting.

APPROVE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Bryan Sharp asked for a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the February 20, 2024 County Board meeting. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to approve the February 20, 2024 minutes, as written; Tim Carlson second. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Sharp asked if there was any comments from the public and reminded those who were to speak that they are allowed three (3) minute to speak and that it is not a question and answer period.

Garry Younker, residing president of the Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water Service (SNAWS) introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Younker stated that he wanted to inform each member of the Board that the group does receive some federal grants but if any ARPA funds were available after the Courthouse renovations, the group would be interested in presenting more facts in hopes of receiving extra funding to help the people in rural Christian County to receive city water.

Keri Foster was next and introduced herself to the Board. Keri was recently hired as a Deputy in the Treasurer's office.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Sharp stated there were several appointment that needed addressed this evening. The first on the agenda was to re-appoint Pat Schneider and Jeff Waterman to the 708 Mental Health Board. *Tim Carlson made a motion to appoint Pat Schneider for a three (3) year term to the 708 Mental Health Board, Ray Koonce second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*
Ray Koonce made a motion to appoint Jeff Waterman for a three (3) year term to the 708 Mental Health Board, Venise McWard second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.

The next appointment that was presented to the Board by Chairman Sharp, was Chairman of the ZBA. Sharp stated that the current Chairman, Jim Overholt, had spoken to him about stepping down from the Chairman role and as a ZBA member. Sharp recommends appointing Adrian Adcock as Chairman to replace Overholt. *David Buckles made a motion to appoint Adrian Adcock*

to replace Jim Overholt as Chairman of the ZBA, Clint Epley second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.

The Chairman then recommended appointing Craig Berner to the ZBA. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to approve the appointment of Craig Berner to the ZBA, fulfilling the vacancy left by Jim Overholt, Jean Vandenberg second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

Due to some changes in the Zoning Code that added alternates to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Sharp recommended appointing Janet DeClerck and Nicole Lanham. *Linda Curtin made a motion to appoint Janet DeClerck as an alternate member of the ZBA, Tim Carlson second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried*

Vicki McMahon made a motion to appoint Nicole Lanham as an alternate member of the ZBA, Venise McWard second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.

Next, Chairman Sharp made recommendation to appoint Dr. Ben Sowle to the Christian County Health Board. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to appoint Dr. Ben Sowle to the Christian County Health Board, Tim Carlson second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND/OR PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Sharp presented petitions, resolutions/or ordinances, proclamations to be addressed by the Board. The first, an addition to the Zoning Code Appendix D Battery Storage Systems, Section 4, O2024 ZB 003. *Mike Specha made a motion to approve the addition to the Zoning Code Appendix D Battery Storage Systems, Section 4, and to approve ordinance O2024 ZB 003, Clayton Walter second. A roll call vote polled the following: David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg and Clayton Walter. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next ordinance that Chairman Sharp discussed with the Board was ordinance O2024 ZB 004, which pertains to a zoning variance change near Edinburg. Sharp stated that the ordinance needs to be sent back to the ZBA to confirm that contact was made with all of the adjoining landowners. *Ken Franklin made a motion to send ordinance O2024 ZB 004 back to the ZBA, Ray Koonce second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

MARCH 2024 COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were presented and placed on file in the Clerk's Office:

1. The Treasurer's Reports for period ending February 29, 2024
2. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for February 2024
3. IDOT– Motor Fuel Tax Allotment and Transactions for February 2024
4. The ROE – Expenditure Report for February 2024
5. Current Prevailing Wage Rates as of March 4, 2024
6. Public Defender Caseload Statistics for January 2024
7. Ameren Upcoming Vegetation Activities Notification
8. IEPA Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste
9. Owaneco Fire Protection District Decennial Report
10. The Christian County Jail and Detention Compliance Monitoring Report for December 7, 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE

Thomas Snyder, Jr. highlighted the meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee. He stated the meeting was called to order on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

Committee Chair, Thomas Snyder, Jr. brought to the Board a request from Erin Domonousky, representing Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault, to use the Courthouse lawn for the month of April in support of Turn our Town Teal Event. They will decorate the lawn on April 1st with teal ribbons and take down the ribbons at the end of the event. A certificate of insurance listing the county as an additional insured was provided. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to approve the application from Erin Domonousky to use the Courthouse lawn for the Turn our Town Teal Event for the month of April, second by Vicki McMahon. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

Next, Snyder stated that Cliff Frye presented a preliminary engineering agreement with HLR, Inc., consulting engineers for NBIS bridge inspections due in the 2024 cycle at a cost not to exceed \$93,200.00. There are approximately 160 due inspections this year. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to approve and authorize the County Board Chairman to execute the preliminary*

engineering agreement with HLR, Inc. with a cost not to exceed \$93,200.00, Venise McWard second. A roll call vote polled the following: Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter and David Buckles. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR

Clint Epley, Committee Chair, highlighted the meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee. He advised that the meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to address any agenda items, any personnel issues, policies and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

First subject brought to the Board by Committee Chair Epley was a support letter that Chairman Sharp was recently asked to provide to LLCC for a DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Program application, which is a grant for the restraining and training of employees impacted with upcoming closures of area coal mines. *Clint Epley made a motion to authorize Chairman Sharp to draft and sign a letter of support to LLCC for their DCEO Energy Transition Community Grant Program application, second by David Buckles. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Venise McWard, Chairman highlighted the Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee that met on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

Venise McWard brought to the Board the need to approve the claims presented for March 2024. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the claims presented for March 2024, second by Clint Gabriel. No discussion. A roll call vote polled the following: Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles and Timothy Carlson. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next item coming from Committee by Chairperson McWard was ARPA fund interest. *Venise McWard made a motion to direct Treasurer Asmussen to deposit interest earned to date and monthly going forward from the ARPA jail renovation account be transferred to the general fund, Linda Curtin second. Discussion led with Mike Specha asking if there was existing guidance on how to proceed with the ARPA interest. Venise McWard stated that since this was such a large sum, Treasurer Asmussen transferred to a separate account. This original ARPA account accrues monthly interest and deposited into the general fund every month, by statute. The jail renovation account, which is ARPA funds, would be no different. A roll call vote polled the following: Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson and Linda Curtin. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

SECONDARY COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **New Business/Old Business/Other**
Chairman Sharp stated there was no new or old business to discuss.
- **CMS Joint Purchase Certificate of Authority**
Cliff Frye, County Engineer, informed the Board that CMS has joint purchase certificates on various items. Two of those items the County uses is traffic marking paint and rock salt. This Certificate of Authority will be proof that the Board gives authority to Mr. Frye to order these budgeted items through CMS. *A motion made by Tim Carlson to approve the CMS Joint Purchase Certificate of Authority, Jean Vandenberg second. A roll call vote polled the following: Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*
- **Report Skyline Solar Building Permit & Road Use Agreement**
Blake Tarr, Zoning Director updated the Board on the application for the Skyline Solar Building Permit. The permit is asking for the installation and operation of a five (5) megawatt solar facility. The most current setback conditions set forth by the Zoning Board of Appeals were outlined in ordinance O2023 ZB 038, that was approved and adopted on November 21, 2023. Skyline Solar, LLC, must obtain a Road Use Agreement from the Township Commissioner, Brent West, the County Engineer, Cliff Frye, and approved by the County Board. The RUA has been signed by the Township Commissioner, Brent West, and County Engineer, Cliff Frye. *A motion made by Linda Curtin to approve the Road Use Agreement for Skyline Solar, LLC, Ray Koonce second. A roll call vote polled the following: Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin and Ken Franklin with ayes. Clint Gabriel, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles and Clint Epley with nay votes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (5) nays.*
- **Shortfall Drug Testing Equipment – Probation Department**
Laura Cooper, Chief Probation officer for the County informed the Board that the contract with the drug testing equipment has been seeing a shortfall, due to Covid, and resulting in the probation office owing \$61,556.00. Cooper was seeking to request ARPA funding to cover the shortfall. *Mike Specha made a motion to refer this matter to the Audit & Finance for consideration, Jean Vandenberg second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*
- **Keyless Entry – Courthouse**
Jim Baker updated the Board on the bid to rekey the locks that are on office doors in the Courthouse. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to refer the bid to rekey the locks on the Courthouse office doors to Highway, Building and Grounds committee, Mike Specha second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*
- **Transfer of Funds to Solid Waste for Building Reimbursement**
Chairman Sharp commented that the renovations to the Local Solid Waste/Zoning office, located on the first floor of the Courthouse, are coming along nicely. He reminded the Board that funds were set aside to reimburse the Local Solid Waste Tipping Fee Fund for

the cost of the building on Market Street, their current location. The building was originally purchased for \$110,000.00 with Tipping Fee Funds and the funds will need to be reimbursed since the LSW office will be located in the Courthouse and the building will now house the Sheriff's Administration. Shawn Hammers, Director of Local Solid Waste, and the Chairman agreed that price would be reduced because of repairs to the roof and other repairs made by the County. Hammers did not have the exact amount of what the new reimbursement would be, but Chairman Sharp stated that it would be around \$96,000.00. *Mike Specha made a motion to transfer from the General Fund to reimburse the Tipping Fee Fund for an amount not to exceed \$96,000.00, but will be based on the exact reimbursement once the receipt of the roof repair can be brought to the Chairman, David Buckles second. A roll call vote polled the following: Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley with ayes. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nays.*

- **Consideration to Expand Testing**

Chairman Sharp stated that a month or so ago, the Board approved \$2,000.00 to the Christian County Health Department to help with water testing kits for those people who live within a half of a mile of the Ameren site. Sharp would like to extend the funds to include soil testing, as well as water, for those that live within a half of a mile range of the Ameren site. *Ken Franklin made a motion to approve the amended language to include soil testing, along with water testing, for those people who live within one half mile of the Ameren site, Clint Epley second. A roll call vote polled the following: Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley and Ken Franklin, with ayes. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nays.*

- **Any other matters or updates that are properly brought before the Board for future consideration**

Shawn Hammers stated that while the Board was on the subject of the Ameren site, he wanted to inform them that IEPA did issue a Notice of Public Hearing for March 26, 2024, at Lincoln Land Community College. The public is invited for an update as well as questions and answers.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT – March 2024

Chairman Sharp entertained a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report for March, second by Venise McWard. No discussion. A roll call vote polled the following: Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin and Clint Gabriel, with ayes. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nays.*

| <u>Board Member</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u># of Meetings This Month</u> | <u>Extension of Rate</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| David Buckles | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Timothy Carlson | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Linda Curtin | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 3 | \$50.00 |
| Clint Epley | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 4 | \$100.00 |
| Ken Franklin | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 3 | \$75.00 |
| Clint Gabriel | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Ray Koonce | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Miranda Langen | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Vicki McMahon | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Venise McWard | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 3 | \$75.00 |
| David Puccetti | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Thomas Snyder, Jr. | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 3 | \$75.00 |
| Mike Specha | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Jean Vandenberg | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 3 | \$75.00 |
| Clayton Walter | \$100.00 | \$25.00 | 2 | \$50.00 |
| Bryan Sharp | \$769.24 | | | |

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sharp called for a motion from the floor to adjourn until next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Timothy Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and second by Ray Koonce. Motion carried with all ayes.