

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 **May 21, 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, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha and Jean Vandenberg as present. Clayton Walter 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 April 16, 2024 County Board meeting. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to approve the April 16, 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.

Deborah Mayo, from Macon County and a volunteer with the United Sovereign Americas, spoke to the Board regarding Illinois State Voter Data Base and the importance of yearly audits of election results. She encouraged the Board to sign a resolution for a valid General Election that the group had proposed.

Danielle Reed, from Macon County and volunteer with the United Sovereign Americas, read a statement from the proposed resolution.

Michael Reed, from Macon County and a volunteer with the United Sovereign Americas, read a statement from the proposed resolution.

Joe Bridge, from Tazewell County and a volunteer with the United Sovereign Americas, read a statement from the proposed resolution.

Ken Zitko, Illinois State Chapter Director with the United Sovereign Americas, read a statement from the proposed resolution.

Don Mayo, from Macon County and a volunteer with the United Sovereign Americas, recapped the statements from the resolution that the group is proposing.

Bonnie Mizeur spoke to the Board about the proposed North Pana Solar Project. Ms. Mizeur is a landowner, and stated that two sides of her home will be affected by the Project and she is against the passing of the special use application. She believes that the citizens of the City of Pana and Pana Township have shown that they do not want this commercial solar farm on the edge of our city. She believes this project does not promote the public health, safety and welfare of the community of Pana.

Greg Cherry, a business owner from Pana, addressed the Board concerning the North Pana Solar Project. He advised the Board that his parents and grandparents had been farmers in the area for years and that he is against the project.

Connie Knappmiller addressed the Board stating that she is a co-owner of acreage that will be included in the development of the North Pana Solar Project and that she approves the project.

Kathy Boren spoke to the Board the let them know that she is a co-owner of acreage that will be included in the development of the North Pana Solar Project and that she approves the project.

Kathryn Boren spoke on behalf of her mother and aunt, who are co-owners of acreage in the North Pana Solar Project area. She advised the Board that she is for the project.

Mark Boren spoke on behalf of his wife, Kathy Boren, who is a co-owner of acreage in the North Pana Solar Project area. He advised the Board that he is for the project.

Cindy Witt, a Pana resident, addressed the Board stating that she is against the North Pana Solar Project. She is worried about several things like taking the land out of production and extra traffic on the township road during construction.

Reuben Grandon, the project developer with Green Key Solar, who is working on the North Pana Solar Project land use application. He has been working on the project since March 2023. A 35-acre project, Grandon believes the project will bring jobs with construction and a dramatic increase to the property tax revenue. He stated that there were some major concessions made by his company to try to appease the landowners.

William Shay, an attorney representing North Pana Solar Project, addressed the Board to reiterate an Illinois statute that was passed in January 2023, concerning wind and solar. He advised the Board that the North Pana Solar Project requirements meet or exceed the statute requirements.

Mike Mizeur, a resident of Pana, spoke to the Board about his concerns for the North Pana Solar Project. Mr. Mizeur asked the Board to deny the special use application based on practical site selection and proximity to Pana city limits.

Tracy Mizeur addressed the Board about her concerns for the North Pana Solar Project. She stated that if Christian County continues to allow peppered little solar farms around the edges of the small towns, roads would be restricted. She also stated that the response from the City of Pana board declared that they do not want solar farms within 1.5 miles of their buffered zone so they will be able to extend in their future.

Monica Puckett stated that she is not against solar but asked the Board if they would like a solar farm in their backyard and not able to do anything about it.

Steve Mizeur addressed the Board to explain how he felt pressured by the solar company to acquire his land and he was not happy with the way it was handled.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Sharp stated there were appointments that needed addressed this evening. The first on the agenda was to re-appoint J. David Hadley to the Nokomis Fire Protection District. *Dave Puccetti made a motion to re-appoint Joe Dorr Owaneco Fire Protection District, Mike Specha second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

The next appointment that was presented to the Board by Chairman Sharp was the appointment of Dr. Matthew Yociss to the Christian County Public Health Board. *Vicki McMahan made a motion to appoint Dr. Matthew Yociss to the Christian County Public Health Board, Venise McWard second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

Sharp had two re-appointments to the Christian-Shelby County 911 Board this evening. The first was the re-appointment of Daniel Bland. *Linda Curtin made a motion to re-appoint Daniel Bland to the Christian-Shelby County 911 Board, Clint Epley second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

Next, Sharp recommended the re-appointment of Marcia Rosenthal to the Christian-Shelby County 911 Board. *Ray Koonce made a motion to re-appoint Marcia Rosenthal to the Christian-Shelby County 911 Board, Tim Carlson second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

FY2023 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Rich Hooper with LMHN, Inc., the accounting firm for the County, gave an update on the final FY2023 Audit. Before beginning his explanation, Hooper gave thanks to the Treasurer, County Clerk and Circuit Clerk offices for their cooperation and help during the audit. Hooper went through the financial statements, revenue/expenses and internal control over financial reporting and reported that everything was in compliance and no single audit was needed. It was Hooper's opinion after the audit that the County is in satisfactory financial condition. *Mike Specha made a motion to accept the FY2023 Annual Audit Report as presented, Venise McWard second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha and Jean Vandenberg. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

PROPERTY TAX BILL EXPLAINED

Treasurer Betty Asmussen distributed an insert explaining the tax cycle of the County that will be sent with the local property tax bills next month. Treasurer Asmussen explained to the Board that there are quite a few property owners that do not understand the process of how their property tax bill is computed or where their money is being sent once collected. She stated that the cycle starts with Supervisor of Assessments, Chad Coady, who goes out to assess the property; County Clerk, Jodie Badman, then receives the annual budgets and levies of all taxing districts in the County. These are to be received by the end of December in order for the Clerk's office to enter into the system. The cycle ends with the Treasurer's office when the mail the property tax bills and then receive the funds to be distributed back to the taxing districts.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND/OR PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Sharp presented petitions, resolutions/or ordinances, proclamations to be addressed by the Board. The first brought to the Board was ordinance O2024 ZB 011. This is a special use application for North Pana Solar LLC for parcel number 11-25-09-400-004-00 and the address is

located 2,000 feet north of the intersection of East 400 North Road and North 2400 East Road in Pana Township. *Ray Koonce made a motion to approve ordinance O2024 ZB 011, with conditions listed in exhibit A, Dave Puccetti second.* Discussion from Ray Koonce. He stated he had spoken with several people and went to the actual property to assess. Koonce stated that he does not want the County of Christian to be a capital of solar farms, but unless there are other conditions or laws that the County should abide by, he is willing to allow because there is not a legal reason he should not. Thomas Snyder, Jr. agreed with Ray Koonce. Snyder stated he was not a fan of solar farms but he did not have a legal reason to deny. Clint Gabriel also agreed with Koonce and Snyder statements. Gabriel expressed his dismay with the State interfering with County government. Venise McWard questioned drainage plans and road use. Sharp stated that drainage and road use would come when the company applies for a building permit. Zoning Director, Blake Tarr, explained some drainage and road use plans with the Board. Jean Vandenberg stated that she attended the ZBA meetings and she stated that a map showed that there was a coalmine under that property and discussion of Ameren building a substation on that property but was declined because of the coalmine under it. She said that the solar company acted surprised to find out the information about the coalmine. She was also concerned about the potential drainage issues. Ken Franklin stated he commended the ZBA for making the best possible outcome of this solar farm. He said was not a fan of solar farms, but they met all legal requirements. Sharp reiterated the State statute that forced the hand of the County. *A roll call polled the following: Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha and Dave Buckles all voting aye. Clint Epley, Miranda Langen, Venise McWard and Jean Vandenberg all voting nay. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (5) nay.*

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

APRIL 2024 COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The Treasurer's Reports for period ending April 30, 2024
2. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for April 2024
3. IDOT– Motor Fuel Tax Allotment and Transactions for April 2024
4. The ROE – Expenditure Report for April 2024
5. Current Prevailing Wage Rates as of May 20, 2024

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, May 13, 2024 at 6:00 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 to use all sides of the Courthouse lawn on July 12-14, 2024 for the Vendor Fair/Maker's Market. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to approve the use of all sides of the courthouse lawn July 12-14, 2024 for the Vendor Fair/ Maker's Market, Mike Specha second. A roll call vote polled all ayes, motion carried.*

The committee reviewed and discussed the bids that were opened and read on April 23 at 10:00 am for Motor Fuel Tax materials to be used by the County and Townships in 2024. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to accept the low bids as read for the County's 2024 MFT materials, Venise McWard second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Dave Buckles and Tim Carlson. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to accept the low bids as read for the Township's 2024 MFT materials, Dave Buckles second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson and Linda Curtin. 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 Wednesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 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 ordinance O2024 CB 007, amending ordinance O2019 CB 009. *Clint Epley made a motion to add and delete territory from the Taylorville-Christian County Enterprise Zone and amending the Intergovernmental Agreement, Dave Puccetti second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley, with all ayes. Jean Vandenberg abstained. Motion carried with (14) ayes, (0) nay, (1) abstain.*

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Venise McWard, Chairman highlighted the Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee that met on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00 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 May 2024. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the claims presented for May 2024, second by Linda Curtin. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley and Ken Franklin. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next item coming from Committee by Chairperson McWard was to donate to the Christian County Fair for a plaque and sign. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the cost of \$550 (\$400 for the sign and \$150 for the annual fee) for the signage, \$100 for the plaque, with these coming from the Contingency Fund, and to include in future budgets the annual \$150 signage fee, Miranda Langen second. Jean Vandenberg questioned if there was a picture of the plaque and Chairman Sharp advised not yet but it is in the works. Linda Curtin told the Board that the Fair Board is selling license plates as well, for anyone interested. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Ray Koonce, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin and Clint Gabriel. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

McWard said the committee next reviewed a \$650 invoice presented for the cost to maintain the Langleyville Cemetery. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve and pay the invoice of \$650 to Jason Eson for mowing and maintenance materials for the Langleyville Cemetery, Thomas Snyder, Jr. second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel and Ray Koonce. 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.
- **Any other matters or updates that are properly brought before the Board for future consideration**
 - Chairman Sharp called upon Shawn Hammers, Director of Local Solid Waste, to discuss Vistra Energy facility. Hammers updated the Board on the site and water sampling findings. He stated that most information is on the website and that it is lengthy, at over 1000 pages, and he will keep the Board updated.
 - Chairman Sharp spoke on the rumors spreading about the Health Department being too critical for new businesses. Sharp stated that the department is doing what is supposed to be doing, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.
 - Sharp also touched on the subject that the Christian County Animal Control is not related in any way to Fur Love and they have not received any donations from Fur Love.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT – May 2024

Chairman Sharp entertained a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report for May 2024. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report for May 2024, Tim Carlson second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Dave Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Dave Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce and Miranda Langen. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

<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	\$75.00
Clint Epley	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Ken Franklin	\$100.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
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	3	\$75.00
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
David Puccetti	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Thomas Snyder, Jr.	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Mike Specha	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Jean Vandenberg	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
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, June 18, 2024.

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