

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 **October 17, 2023**
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, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg and Clayton Walter as present. Miranda Langen 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 September 19, 2023 County Board meeting. *Tim Carlson made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023 minutes, as written; Thomas Snyder, Jr. second. Motion carried with (13) ayes, (0) nay.*

PRESENTATION OF DONATION

Chairman Sharp introduced Judge Ron Spears who was there to present a painting of Abraham Lincoln to the Christian County Courthouse. Judge Spears gave a background speech about the significant contribution to the Lincoln history in Christian County. The artist, George Peter Alexander Healy, was one of the most famous portrait artists in the State of Illinois. Healy has more portraits in the White House than any other artist. The portrait, titled "Lincoln 1860", was painted after Lincoln was elected in November of 1860. Patricia & Jeffrey Webb donated the portrait to be displayed in the Lincoln wing, on the lower level of the Courthouse

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.

Abby Ruble spoke to the Board about the proposed venue in Taylorville. She stated that since the last meeting she attended, she did make contact with two of the neighbors of the proposed venue. The neighbors were not opposed of the venue and they were supportive of it staying the way it was prior to the sale.

Next, Adam Jeffrey spoke to the Board. He followed up with the previous speaker concerning the proposed venue. This venue, formerly known as The Landing Barn, that is located at 939 E 1100 North Rd, Taylorville and was once owned by Joetta Lewis. Jeffrey stated that back in 2016, Lewis came to the Board asking for the property to be rezoned to allow a wedding venue. The Board approved with the stipulation that if the venue did not pass on to family, the future owners would need to come back before the Board. He was here this evening to ask that this zoning continue as a wedding venue.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Sharp stated there were a several appointments that needed to be done this evening.

Sharp stated that a vacancy on the Board that was left by Jeff Nolen is available for appointment. He recommended to the Board that Clint Gabriel be appointed for the remainder of the 2-year term to County Board District 1. *Clint Epley made the motion to appoint Clint Gabriel to the remainder of the term for County Board District 1, Venise McWard second. A roll call vote called upon the following: David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg and Clayton Walter. Motion carried with (13) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next appointment recommended by the Chairman was Ray Koonce to fill the vacant 4-year term on County Board District 3 that was open due to the resignation of Seth Foster. *Vicki McMahon made the motion to appoint Ray Koonce to the remainder of the term for County Board District 3, Jean Vandenberg second. A roll call vote called upon the following: Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter and David Buckles. Motion carried with (13) ayes, (0) nay.*

Chairman Sharp stated that the next appointment is for a 4-year term on the Christian County Public Health Board and he recommends Dr. Pavi Gill. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to appoint Dr. Pavi Gill to a 4-year term on the Christian County Public Health Board, second by Dave Puccetti. A roll call vote called upon the following: Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles and Timothy Carlson. Motion carried with (13) ayes, (0) nay.*

The last appointment for the evening is to fill a vacancy on the Anderson Cemetery Board. Chairman Sharp recommended that Shawn Franklin be appointed to this position. *Venise McWard made a motion to appoint Shawn Franklin to the Anderson Cemetery Board, second by Thomas Snyder, Jr. A roll call vote called upon the following: Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson and Linda Curtin. Motion carried with (13) ayes, (0) nay.*

SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Christian County Clerk & Recorder, Jodie Badman, swore Clint Gabriel, who was appointed to fulfill the remainder of the 2-year term for District 1, and Ray Koonce, who was appointed to fulfill a portion of the 4-year term for District 3, into their positions.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND/OR ORDINANCES

Chairman Sharp stated that there several ordinances to be heard and voted upon. The first ordinance brought before the full Board was ordinance O2023 ZB 036 from the ZBA. This ordinance addresses the zoning of the venue that was spoken about earlier in the public comments. Sharp called for a motion to be made. *Dave Buckles made a motion to approve ordinance O2023 ZB 036, that references a zoning variance and maintain Commercial II, second by Jean Vandenberg. Motion carried with (13) ayes.*

Chairman Sharp explained to the Board that the prior ARPA ordinances were approved up to so many dollars. If the dollar amount was lower, that ordinance will need rescinded and a new ordinance passed to reflect the correct amount of money that was paid. Ordinance number O2023 CB 001 will be rescinded because the funds were never used. Sharp called for a motion to be made. *Mike Specha made a motion to rescind ordinance O2023 CB 001, second by Vicki McMahon. A roll call vote called upon the following: Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next ordinance presented was to amend O2022 CB 036. This ordinance referenced extra funding to hire a temporary employee to help Liz Hile in the Chairman's office and there were remaining funds left over. Sharp asked for a motion. *Ken Franklin made a motion to amend ordinance O2022 CB 036, second by Mike Specha. A roll call vote called upon the following: Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley and Ken Franklin. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

Chairman Sharp stated that the next ordinance to be amended was O2022 CB 005 relating to the Digit Ticket purchase that was less than anticipated. The Chairman asked for a motion to amend ordinance O2022 CB 005. Mike Specha asked during discussion if the Chairman could mention the amounts as there are two new members. Sharp told the Board that the original amount on this ordinance was \$128,668.23 and actual funds spent were \$118,796.58. No further discussion. *David Puccetti made a motion to amend ordinance O2022 CB 005, second by Tim Carlson. A roll call vote called upon the following: Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin and Vicki McMahon. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next ordinance that needs to be amended is O2023 CB 002. This ordinance was for the Animal Control gate. The original amount approved was up to \$6,300.00 but the actual funds spent was \$5,520.00. Chairman Sharp called for a motion to amend ordinance O2023 CB 002. *Vicki McMahon made a motion to amend ordinance O2023 CB 002, second by Mike Specha. A roll call vote called upon the following: David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon and Venise McWard. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The final ordinance brought before the Board was O2023 CB 024. This was the ordinance where the Board had set aside after almost all of the ARPA funds were allocated. The amount retained was \$464,830.30 to use at the Board's discretion. Sharp stated that after applying the amounts that were not spent in the other ARPA ordinances, the total funds available is \$478,611.10. Chairman Sharp asked for a motion to approve the amended ordinance O2023 CB 024. *David Buckles made a motion to approve the amended ordinance O2023 CB 024, second by Jean Vandenberg. A roll call vote called upon the following: Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard and David Puccetti. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

OCTOBER 2023 COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The Treasurer's Reports for period ending September 30, 2023
2. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for September 2023
3. The September 2023 Public Defender's Report
4. IDOT– Motor Fuel Tax Allotment and Transactions for September 2023
5. The October 5, 2023 Prevailing Wage Report
6. The Report for Compliance with Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act for the Assumption Public Library District as required by law.
7. Illinois Department of Natural Resources certified letter regarding RLE Pawnee Properties, LLC. Permit Application for Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations at Pawnee Mine.

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 Thursday, October 12, 2023 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.

Thomas Snyder, Jr. presented to the Board a request from Taylorville Mayor, Bruce Barry to use the Courthouse lawn for the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28, 2023. Chairman Sharp asked if anyone was aware if food vendors would be present for confirmation of food permits and if liability insurance would be needed. Chairman Sharp foresees these issues as things that will likely be included in a future checklist. Marcia Neal with The Chamber was present advising there would not be food vendors and she will check on the insurance issue. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to allow the use of the south side of the Courthouse lawn for the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 28, 2023 starting at 5:30 p.m., Tim Carlson second. Thomas Snyder, Jr. asked in discussion if anything was heard about the insurance. Liz Hile stated that Marcia Neal called to say that there will be a food truck and that the Chamber of Commerce would provide a certificate of insurance. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

Next, Snyder brought forth the next item to be presented before the Board. The proposed amendment to Zoning Code – Section F. Danger to Public Health and Welfare of Property Damage. Assistant States Attorney Mary Barry provided a review of the minimal change recommendations to the original draft which includes but not limited to moving the Condemnation section to its own section of the Zoning Code. Expansion on the type of structures covered. Added that the Zoning Administrator shall get notice of the condemnation. Included that owners who are not occupants can still be liable for violations of the ordinance. Eliminated the specific penalty section and instead tied it to the overall Zoning Penalty Code. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to refer to the ZBA for consideration to approve Condemnation and penalty section clean up as presented, second by Vicki McMahon. 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 be called to order on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 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.

Clint Epley stated that one of the actions brought to the full Board was to authorize the County Board Chairman to sign a Federal Surplus Agreement. Jeff Stoner had reached out to him regarding a Federal Surplus Property Program that EMA would be interested in joining. Chairman Sharp stated that he has since realized that the document was not presented as it should have been. It was not an agreement, but rather a resolution for participation in the State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program. He stated that it was not complete and that the document needs to be completed by EMA prior to signing. *Clint Epley made a motion to table and send back to committee until a completed resolution is presented, second by Venise McWard. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

Clint Epley brought to the full Board an Animal Control Ordinance and fees as presented. This ordinance number O2023 AC 037 includes updated fees as well as required citation fees required to be collected by the Circuit Clerk. *Clint Epley made a motion to approve the Animal Control Ordinance O2023 AC 037 and fees as presented, second by David Puccetti. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

The next item brought to the full Board by Epley was the Non-Bargaining Ordinance. Epley stated that when the Non-Bargaining Starting Salary Policy Section C was amended in October of 2022 timing for when the step increase(s) would take place for after completion of one (1) year, two (2) years and three (3) years in the position was not included in the policy. County Treasurer Asmussen provided a recommendation that the timing be the same as union contracts and elected officials, which is 12/1 and not an anniversary date. However, the committee recommends to the Board the step increases shall occur on the anniversary of the position hire date and to add language for the years thereafter be effective on 12/1 of the applicable fiscal year. *Clint Epley made a motion to amend the Non-Bargaining Starting Salary to include language indicating the increase after completion of years one (1), two (2), and three (3) shall*

occur on the anniversary of the position hire date and to add language for the years thereafter be effective on 12/1 of the applicable fiscal year, second by Tim Carlson. Chairman Sharp asked if there was any discussion. Treasurer Betty Asmussen spoke to the Board about the history of salaries. She stated that the only three salaries that this ordinance pertains to belong to the Chief Deputies of the Circuit Clerk, County Clerk & Recorder and the Treasurer. She explained that she had spoken to the Auditor for the County about how past practices allowed the salaries to be increased and paid on 12/1. Asmussen further stated that any other non-bargaining position would get their increase on 12/1, making these three positions the only positions payable on the anniversary. She asked the Board not to penalize these three current employees. She also asked that the Board table this motion until the next committee meeting where she can show where every other non-bargaining employee received their step increases on 12/1. Treasurer Asmussen stated that there are non-bargaining employees that have not even been employed 1 year, yet they will receive their increases on 12/1. She asked that the Board not penalize the three non-bargaining employees that are covered under this ordinance to which Chairman Sharp responded that they are not penalizing them. Board member Ray Koonce asked if the Board could send the ordinance back to committee to let the Treasurer explain fully or if there was a timetable. Clint Epley stated that there is not necessarily a timetable but more cleaning up of language. Chairman Sharp responded by saying that it's one of those things that can keep being continued or we can make a move forward with getting it resolved now. Mike Specha asked for clarification as to whether you are a new hire, regardless of their hire date, would not be eligible for an increase until they have completed their first year. Asmussen stated not all non-bargaining positions. The Treasurer recommended that this be tabled, as there are too many questions within the Board members. Sharp stated that there is a separate group of policies for the three individual non-bargaining positions being discussed. The Chairman reiterated that there is a motion on the floor and called for a roll call vote. Jean Vandenberg asked that in the near future, the other non-bargaining needs to be visited. A roll call vote called upon the following: Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, David Puccetti and Bryan Sharp. Ken Franklin voted nay. Motion carried with (14) ayes, (1) nay.

Committee Chair Epley then presented a text amendment proposal from Blake Tarr, Zoning Officer for consideration to adopt Appendix D, Regulating the Siting of Sustainable Energy Systems text amendment as presented. *Clint Epley made a motion to refer to the ZBA for consideration to adopt Appendix D, Regulating the Siting of Sustainable Energy Systems text amendment as presented. Venise McWard second. A roll call vote polled all ayes.*

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Venise McWard, Chairman highlighted the Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee that met on Wednesday, October 11 2023, at 5:30 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, Chairman highlighted the Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee that met on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 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 stated to the Board that a motion was made by Vicki McMahan and second by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board to approve the claims presented for October. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the claims presented for October, second by David Buckles. A roll call vote called upon the following: Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp and Thomas Snyder, Jr. Motion carried with (15) ayes, (0) nay.*

Mike Specha questioned Audit & Finance Chairman, Venise McWard, about the interest rates the County was earning. He wanted to know what the rates are now and if they could be included in the reports. Treasurer Asmussen answered Specha and she will email all board members.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS/OTHER

Chairman Sharp mentioned that there would be two (2) claims periods in November to wrap up the fiscal year.

Sharp also mentioned the remediation at the old Ameren site in Taylorville and told the Board that Ameren did not notify the County as they thought that is was on city property. He has since spoken to IEPA to get information.

The next agenda item was about Economic Development-Enterprise Zone presentation. The Chairman thinks that it was vague and needs to be more forthcoming.

Ray Koonce informed the board that he tendered his resignation to the 708 Mental Health Board.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT – October 2023

Chairman Sharp entertained a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report. *Tim Carlson made the motion and a second by Linda Curtin. A roll call vote called upon the following: Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Ken Franklin, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr. and Mike Specha. 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	2	\$50.00
Clint Epley	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Ken Franklin	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Clint Gabriel	\$50.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Ray Koonce	\$50.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Miranda Langen	\$100.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Vicki McMahon	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
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	3	\$75.00
Mike Specha	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Jean Vandenberg	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Clayton Walter	\$100.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Bryan Sharp	\$769.24			

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sharp called for a motion from the floor to adjourn until next meeting scheduled for November 21, 2023.

David Puccetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting and second by David Buckles. Motion carried with all ayes.