

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
August 21, 2023 – 7 p.m.

Bradley Knolhoff, Chairman

Nelson Heinzmann, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff Dan Travous called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on August 21, 2023.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Clark, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kuhl, Rakers, Rapien, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. The record reflected there was a quorum.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Riechman made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2023 regular meeting. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

a. Rob Gerstenecker, who was later appointed as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, introduced himself to the board. Gerstenecker is a member of the Clinton County Farm Bureau and the Clinton County Electric Cooperative Board.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

a. Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner and Associate Judge Doug Gruenke spoke about the impact of the SAFE-T Act on county offices and the local criminal justice system. Gruenke said there are several new laws which will affect future revenue for the county. After the SAFE-T Act goes into effect on Sept. 18, there will no longer be any cash bail. Gruenke said there is a detailed process to go through to hold a person in jail without bail. The alternative is that the defendant is released with a promise to appear in court at a future date. The loss of cash bail affects multiple departments financially, and it also impacts the probability that a defendant will show up for future court dates. Two other new laws will also affect the county budget. Supreme Court Amendment 404 takes effect Sept. 1 and requires public defenders to file certificates to waive court assessments (court costs) for anyone who is represented by the public defender. Another new law went into effect July 28 which eliminates fines and assessments in juvenile cases, with the exception of fines for traffic fines and payment of restitution. In addition, any outstanding fines and fees from past

juvenile convictions, will be waived. Gruenke said the County Board will need to plan for these budget shortfalls in the future. The state is not offering counties any financial assistance for the lost revenue; however, as part of the SAFE-T Act, a Public Defender Fund was implemented. Clinton County is expected to get \$100,000, which is earmarked for certain expenses in the Public Defender's Office. Kloeckner offered more details about the fines and fees collected by his office and dispersed throughout the county. He said the purpose of bail money is twofold: to make sure a defendant shows up in court and often times the bond money is the only type of payment that the county will get from a defendant. Kloeckner said looking at averages from 2015 through present, the county takes in between \$250,000 to \$500,000 per year in bond money. In Fiscal Year 2022, the county took in \$484,075 in bond money. After bond refunds, the Circuit Clerk's Office had \$288,983 which was reclassified, meaning it was dispersed to various agencies and special funds associated with the court system. For example, nearly \$32,000 of the bond money was used to pay fines which go directly to the arresting agencies; nearly \$20,000 was paid in restitution to the victims (individuals and businesses); and nearly \$9,000 was allocated for judicial security. Kloeckner said there are currently 287 cases in the county which have over \$402,000 in pending bond. Once these cases are settled, the bond money will either get refunded or reclassified. While the county may not see a huge financial impact in 2024, Kloeckner said the budget will definitely be affected by 2025-26 as some of these funds start being depleted. B. Knolhoff asked about the impact on the county jail. Gruenke said half of the cases in this county are drug-related, and many others are tied with drugs in that people are stealing to get money to buy drugs. The only drug-related offenders that the courts will be able to detain are the distributors and manufacturers. Consequently, most drug users are going to get booked, processed and released with a notice to appear in court. For some of these people, sitting in jail provided a two-week detox, but this will no longer be the case. Domestic battery is a detainable offense with no option to post bond. Gruenke said if these people have a spouse and kids who rely on them, they are going to be sitting in jail instead of returning to work and providing for their family. Gruenke said it's likely that the jail population will decrease some, but you're also going to see a different type of defendant detained in jail. B. Knolhoff said the new laws will affect every aspect of law enforcement and the judicial system.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

- i. Motion – Final Plat for Al Varel's First Subdivision, consisting of two lots on Old Carlyle Road in Santa Fe Township. A family split for the property was approved at the July board meeting.**

Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the final plat. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 15-0.

- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
Rakers reported on a recent Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board meeting. He said the organization has a lot of resources to benefit area businesses. Also, the group offers ongoing training and schooling that could benefit area youth. He encouraged businesses to contact the organization to learn more. In regard to the Broadband Initiative, a meeting is planned on August 28 in Greenville to hear from 12 Internet providers on what assistance they can offer. The “On the Hook Fishing” video, showcasing some of the attractions in Clinton County, was filmed last week and can be viewed on YouTube.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
Heinzmann said the committee met August 14. Bill Schmalz of Einstein Consulting gave a health insurance update. Total costs, compared to last year, were up \$183,266 with \$175,050 being medical claims and \$6,835 pharmacy. Fixed costs are up \$1,379 compared to last year. Expenses to date, without reimbursement, are \$935,779 or 12.3 percent over budget. With reimbursement, expenses are \$601,665 or 27.8 percent under budget. A discussion was held about the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) utilization which seems to be fairly low. The next meeting will be on October 9 at 6:30 p.m.
- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
Arentsen said the committee met August 3 and discussed some of the finishing touches on the courthouse roof and upgrades to the landscaping around the courthouse with the possibility of getting the landscaping project included in next year’s budget.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
Schroeder said the part-time employee at Animal Control has quit. Doc Brown, Animal Control administrator, advertised for the position and received four applications. New security cameras have been installed. The target date to have all Rabies Tags distributed by local veterinarian offices is October 1.
- f. Finance – David Veizer
Veizer reported the committee met and all bills were approved.
 - 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame
Veizer said the committee heard a report from University of Illinois Extension and discussed funding for the next Fiscal Year. All of the monthly reports were in the packets, and the county’s share of video gaming proceeds for the past month was \$7,005.47.
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Rapien made a motion to approve the report. Arentsen seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
 - ii. Motion – County Trustee Surrender Resolution for Parcel #03-03-02-206-025.
Veizer made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resolution. Hilmes seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 15-0.

- g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann
No Report
- h. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker
 - 1. Strieker reported the committee met August 8. Training for ID Networks will begin in September. The sheriff’s office continues its search for another full-time deputy and is in the process of ordering 16 body cameras as mandated by the state. The committee nominated Tony Petrea as the new Deputy EMA Director who will assist EMA Director Tim Schleper. B. Knolhoff reminded board members that a resolution was approved in July amending the pay structure of the EMA Director so that a portion of the director’s salary could go to the deputy director if the director elects to have an assistant.
 - i. Motion – Appointment of Tony Petrea as Deputy EMA Director
Strieker made a motion to approve the appointment. Rapien seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
- i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff
 - 1. Monthly County Engineer’s Report – Dan Behrens
Behrens said contractors have finished the bridge replacement program on End Road in Meridian Township, and the county is waiting on the Illinois Department of Transportation to approve the paperwork to complete the project. The county completed oil and chipping projects last week. Stolletown Road was oiled and chipped from Old Route 50 to New Route 50 and north as far as they could go with the materials that were available. They also oiled and chipped Lake Road from McDonald’s north to Marydale Road. The county had to scale back on the amount of materials purchased due to the large increase in the oil price this year. Final plans have been turned into IDOT for resurfacing Albers Road from Route 161 to Interstate 64, and the bid letting should be in January. IDOT is working on a joint agreement which the county will need to approve in the coming months. The project is funded 80 percent federal and 20 percent local, and the estimated project cost is \$1.1 million. K. Knolhoff said the Road and Bridge Committee would be conducting interviews later in the week for the maintenance foreman position.
- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen
 - 1. Hilmes said the committee met August 8. They recommended approval of the letter of resignation and payout for Circuit Clerk’s employee Jill Martin. The payout is for 92 hours of unused vacation totaling \$1,966.04.
 - i. Motion – Letter of Resignation and Payout for former Circuit Clerk’s employee Jill Martin.
Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation and payout. Schroeder seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 15-0.

- k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. B. Knolhoff reported that the committee met August 18. Regional Superintendent of Schools Matt Renaud is seeking approval from the four counties in his region to hire private counsel, specializing in educational law, for any legal issues that his office may encounter in the future. Renaud has funding in his budget to cover the cost of outside counsel as needed.
 - i. Motion – Private Legal Counsel for Regional Superintendent of Schools
Heinzmann made a motion to authorize the hiring of legal counsel. Rapien seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - ii. Motion – Resolution to Support City of Trenton TIF Extension Request
B. Knolhoff explained that Trenton is asking for the county’s support to extend the life of its TIF District #1 for an additional 12 years.
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote. Riechman seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 15-0.
 - iii. Motion – Workforce Development Requesting Clinton County to Proclaim National Apprenticeship Week for a designated week in November.
Rakers made a motion to approve the proclamation. Riechman seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst
Haselhorst reported the committee met August 15 to discuss potential locations for the tower site in Trenton. The committee also approved bids for the shelters at the tower sites totaling \$344,750 which is part of the tower site budget approved in July.
- b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman
Riechman said he asked State’s Attorney J.D. Brandmeyer to do a little research on House Bill 1740 which provides that the board of trustees of a district may fix, charge, and collect fees not exceeding the reasonable cost of ambulance services. Brandmeyer said he spoke to the attorney for the villages of New Baden, Albers and Damiansville. His understanding is that each of those villages are in the process of passing ordinances to set up a township special service area for ambulance service and will enter into an intergovernmental agreement to establish the new SSA.
- c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff
 - 1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met and approved a payment of \$206,553.98 to Johannes Construction. The building is coming along and the contractor is pouring concrete for driveways and sidewalks. Windows should be installed soon. K. Knolhoff said the board has two change orders to consider. One is for \$26,879 to divert water from the gutter drains and the sump pump to a drain on the northwest corner of the property. With the second change order for \$40,925, the city of Carlyle is requesting that the county add a drain on the northwest corner of the property diverting the water

down Tenth Street to their storm sewer on Fairfax Street. The city is also wanting the county to install new curbing. K. Knolhoff said he is not in favor of either change order and feels both require further discussion and negotiation. Rakers said that the street and curb were originally designed for runoff water to flow on the east side of Tenth Street, to the storm sewer on the corner of Tenth and Fairfax streets. Rakers said that curb has deteriorated over time, but the city is wanting the county to pay to replace all of the curbing. The city is also asking that an underground pipe be installed for the runoff water to flow to the storm sewer. B. Knolhoff said ideally these change orders should have been received a few weeks ago; however, they were received just a few hours before the board meeting. He said it's hard to make a decision in such a short timeframe. It was noted that the city previously saw the design plan and approved the building permit. B. Knolhoff said we do not want to encounter water issues in the future, but the county also wants to be treated fairly. He suggested that the architect attend the next Health Building Committee meeting for further discussion.

i. Motion – Table Action on the Quote for Gutter Downspout and Sump Drain for new Health Building.

Heinzmann made a motion to table action. Rapien seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

d. Veterans – Greg Riechman
No Report

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel gave a monthly financial report. He said after-hour vaccine clinics will begin in late September. Flu and Covid vaccines will be offered through the month of October and into early November.

1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.

Kuhl made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

b. 708 Mental Health Board – Holly Clark

Clark said the 708 Mental Health Board met to further review applications for program funding. Successful applicants should be announced soon.

c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien

Kuhl said the GTSI system for emergency paging is up and running.

d. Discover Downstate Illinois (Ann Schroeder), SILEC (Mike Kuhl), SCIGA (Greg Riechman), Greater Centralia Enterprise Zone (Holly Clerk/Greg Riechman), Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (Mike Rakers), SWIDA (Ann Schroeder), SIMAPC (Greg Riechman), UCCI.

Kuhl said SILEC is meeting the second week in September. Schroeder said Discover Downstate Illinois met July 26 and it was noted that the organization will help to promote any upcoming events in the county.

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Rapien made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Veizer seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 15-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion – Appoint Dan Behrens and Kevin Timmermann to Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC)

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the appointments. Arentsen seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 15-0.

- b. Motion – Appoint Rob Gerstenecker as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the appointment. Riechman seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 15-0.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Veizer made a motion to adjourn until Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Haselhorst seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder