

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

Bradley Knolhoff, Chairman

Nelson Heinzmann, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

B. Knolhoff called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 6:30 p.m. on December 2, 2024.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kuhl, Rakers, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Absent: Clark, Rapien.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT OF 2022-2024 COUNTY BOARD

B. Knolhoff commended the board on the work it has done in the past two years: overseeing the construction and opening a new animal control facility and a new health department; overseeing the replacement of the courthouse roof; entering into a contract and starting work on the countywide radio replacement project; successfully negotiating eight collective bargaining agreements; hiring an animal control administrator for improved animal welfare and pet population control; passing two balanced budgets; cutting the county's portion of property taxes by over 15 percent and cutting the property tax levy by over 1 percent while increasing cash reserves.

Kuhl made a motion to adjourn the 2022-2024 County Board. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

CLINTON COUNTY REORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2024 – 6:35 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

County Clerk Vicky Albers called the reorganizational meeting of the 2024-2026 Clinton County District Board to order at 6:35 p.m. on December 2, 2024.

2. OATHS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Albers administered oaths to the newly elected and re-elected county board members: Joe Jansen, Greg Riechman, Ann Schroeder, Kurt Schmitz, David Veizer and Gary Arentsen.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Rakers, Riechman, Schmitz, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Absent: Clark, Rapien.

4. ELECT CHAIRMAN

Clerk Albers opened the floor for nominations for County Board Chairman. Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve Brad Knolhoff as chairman. Schroeder seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

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

Motion Carried 12-0 with 1 Abstain.

5. ELECT VICE-CHAIRMAN

Newly re-elected Chairman B. Knolhoff opened the floor for vice-chairman nominations. Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve Nelson Heinzmann as vice-chairman. Strieker seconded the motion. There were no other nominations.

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

Motion Carried 12-0 with 1 Abstain.

6. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

B. Knolhoff thanked everyone for the confidence they have expressed in him as chairman. He noted a few goals for the board over the next two years. Most important is finishing the countywide radio project which is one of the biggest capital expenditures in the history of the county and extremely important for the safety of the residents and emergency personnel. He would like to see the county establish a long-term maintenance plan for the courthouse which is now 25 years old and focus on remodeling the control center at the county jail. The board will work with the county veterans through the proposed Veterans Assistance Commission ensuring that veterans' needs are met while keeping costs in check.

B. Knolhoff then presented a list of committee assignments (see attached).

7. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

Schroeder made a motion to adjourn until Monday, December 16, 2024. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

December 16, 2024 – 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 December 16, 2024.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Arentsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2024 regular meeting and the Dec. 2, 2024 reorganizational meeting. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. Steve Schomaker, Albers village president, spoke about the newly created Lookingglass Emergency Services District for ambulance service for Lookingglass Township that includes the villages of Albers, Damiansville and New Baden. He also asked for the board's approval of four of the five proposed board members: Brian Wuebbels from Albers and Jay Warren from Damiansville for 2-year terms and William Koentz, representing Lookingglass Township, and Bradley Perry of New Baden for 4-year terms. The fifth board member, Dawn Ahner, will be appointed by St. Clair County. Curt Haselhorst voiced concern about the increasing cost of ambulance service. He asked that the new board members continue to look into cost-saving measures and suggested considering service from the private sector. Schomaker said they had looked into the private sector and talked to several but could not find a provider that could answer calls to the west end of the county in a timely manner. For instance, a provider in Mascoutah said they could take on Lookingglass Township but Mascoutah's current service area would have priority over Clinton County. Schomaker said New Baden has provided great ambulance service in the past, and now, with the new district, all entities and all residents will pay their fair share. While Lookingglass Township has taken the lead with creating its own district, other area ambulance special service areas are moving in the same direction.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- a. Motion – Semi-Annual Report of Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner.
Schroeder made a motion to approve the report. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Motion – Semi-Annual Report of County Clerk and Recorder Vicky Albers
Hilmes made a motion to approve the report. Jansen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder
 1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser
Staser said the Zoning Board of Appeals met Dec. 6 and heard eight cases. There are five items on the agenda for board approval.
 - i. Motion – Map Amendment – Agricultural (A) to Agricultural – Residential 10 (AR-10) – Wheatfield Township – Jim and Linda Huels. Staser said the property is located on Emerald Road. They are requesting to rezone 10.68 acres of a 20-acre tract.
Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the map amendment.
Riechman seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
 - ii. Motion – Map Amendment - Agricultural (A) to Agricultural – Residential (A-R) – Santa Fe Township – Adam Alexander/Patrick and Nancy Berrigan. The property is on Oil Field Road, and the request is to rezone 10 acres of a 30-acre tract.
Veizer made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the map amendment.
Arentsen seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
 - iii. Motion – Map Amendment – Agricultural (A) to Residential (R-1) – Sugar Creek Township - Ryan and Emily Johnson/Don Rakers. The property is located on the west side of Aviston/Albers Road, just south of Rocky Ford Road. The parcel is about 2 acres and is multi-zoned (partially R-1 and partially A), so the request is to make the entire parcel R-1. A subdivision plat will follow.
Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the map amendment.
Jansen seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Abstain), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0 with 1 Abstain.

iv. Motion – Text Amendment to the Clinton County Zoning Code (Section 40-5-23 for Commercial Solar Energy Systems). The amendment is for solar companies that are looking to apply with the county when (and only when) the project location is within 1-1/2 miles of a municipality. It gives the city/village an opportunity to review the project and give input before approval. It addresses some of the city/village concerns of commercial solar projects that have been brought to the zoning department in the past.

Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the text amendment.

Rakers seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.

v. Motion – Revised Zoning Fees

Staser said most of the increases are ranging from ½ cent to 2 cents per square foot and are fairly minor. There are also increases for special uses, map amendments and late fees.

Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the zoning fees.

Haselhorst seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.

b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
No Report.

c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that health insurance total costs are up \$141,000 compared to last year. Medical claims are up \$116,000, pharmacy costs are up almost \$23,000, and fixed costs are up \$2,100. Part of the increase is because enrollment is up 9 percent compared to last year. Expenses, without reimbursement, are 18.25 percent over budget. With reimbursement, expenses are 27 percent under budget.

d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
No Report.

e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
No Report.

f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz

Veizer reported the committee met and all bills were approved.

1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame

The monthly reports were in the packets, and the county’s share of video gaming proceeds for the month of November were \$6,886. The tax sale was held earlier in the day with the delinquent taxes on 198 properties and approximately 30 mobile

homes being sold for just under \$300,000.

- i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Heinzmann made a motion to approve the report. Veizer seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
 - ii. Motion – Resolution to Execute Deeds of Conveyance of the County’s Interest for Parcels Auctioned at the Surplus Property Sale on Oct. 11, 2024.
Strieker made a motion for a roll call vote to execute the deeds. Schroeder seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
- g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann
No Report.
- h. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker
No Report.
- i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff
1. Monthly County Engineer’s Report – Dan Behrens
Behrens said maintenance crews are working on road shoulders and mowing back slopes. About 160 tons of salt were put down during the last snowfall. Plans are in the works for resurfacing Aviston-Albers Road from Old Route 50 to Route 161. The work will be done next summer and is funded 80 percent federal and 20 percent local. Plans are underway to replace the bridge by the golf course on Lake Road. That project should be done in the fall and is also funded 80 percent federal and 20 percent local. The highway department is working with the city of Breese to fix the concrete pavement on the northbound lane of Walnut Street, just south of the roundabout. Rock bids will be opened Jan. 8 for county and township roads.
- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen
1. Hilmes said the committee met Dec. 10 and approved the November committee meeting minutes.
 - i. Motion – Resignation and Payout Claim, not to exceed \$1,311.30, for Supervisor of Assessment employee Virginia “Ginny” Dietzel effective April 11. Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation and payout. Arentsen seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0.
- k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann
1. Heinzmann reported the committee reviewed the items from the agenda with two items for board approval.

- i. Motion - 2025 Clinton County Board Meeting Schedule
Heinzmann made a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- ii. Motion – High Bid for County Farm Lease
Four bids came in ranging from \$225 to \$342 per acre. Heinzmann made a motion to approve the high bid from Buehne Farms for \$342 per acre. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst had no committee report; however, Sheriff Travous spoke about the deteriorating quality of the existing radio telecommunication system. Travous said the aging system is getting worse and, in many cases, responders can only hear every second or third word. Many officers working midnights are running calls together because communication is so bad. While the officers also have cell phones, using them is not always possible while handling emergency situations. Travous said this is incredibly dangerous and frustrating for the officers and first responders as well as the citizens involved. He said the new radio telecommunication project, that should have been nearly completed by now, would have solved the issues, but progress has been stalled for several months due to pending litigation. He can only hope that this court issue is resolved as soon as possible. Travous said he has been with the sheriff's department for 27 years and he has never seen the system this bad. B. Knolhoff said the temporary restraining order was entered May 9, and without that, construction of the towers would have started that week. The system would have likely been in the testing phase right now. It's a safety issue for emergency personnel across the county as well as all residents. Travous said when officers cannot hear where they are supposed to go or cannot hear what they are supposed to be doing, it's bad for everyone involved. B. Knolhoff added that the shelters for the tower sites were delivered. The original plan was to deliver the shelters directly to the tower sites; however, they were temporarily delivered to the Highway Department since the tower sites are not ready to accept shelters. Unfortunately, that adds a great deal of cost since multiple crane services were utilized to deliver the shelters to the temporary location.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Kurt Schmitz

1. Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel reported that the department has been working on outfitting the enclosed trailers with tents, generators, heaters and other equipment for emergency incident purposes. New Life Midwest is now renting the mental health area at the health department and will offer substance abuse and mental health services.
 - i. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.
Arentsen made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

- b. 708 Mental Health Board – Greg Riechman
Clark said the board reviewed its budget. Recipients of 708 funds have been sent letters and have been asked to submit their 2024 reimbursement requests. The board is working on its annual report for stakeholders.
- c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien
No Report.
- d. Veterans Assistance Commission – Mike Hilmes
An organizational meeting of the VAC is sent for 7 p.m. on Jan. 8 at the New Baden American Legion.
- e. Discover Downstate Illinois (Ann Schroeder), SILEC (Mike Hilmes), SCIGA (Holly Clark), Greater Centralia Enterprise Zone (Holly Clerk/Greg Riechman), Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (Mike Rakers), SWIDA (Ann Schroeder), SIMAPC (Ann Schroeder/Mike Rakers), UCCI
No Report.

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

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

Motion Carried 13-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion – Appointment of Brian Wuebbels (Village of Albers) for a 2-year term on the Lookingglass Emergency Services District Board
- b. Motion – Appointment of Albert (Jay) Warren (Village of Damiansville) for a 2-year term on the Lookingglass Emergency Services District Board
- c. Motion - Appointment of William Koentz (Lookingglass Township) for a 4-year term on the Lookingglass Emergency Services District Board
- d. Motion - Appointment of Bradley Perry (Village of New Baden) for a 4-year term on the Lookingglass Emergency Services District Board
Arentsen made a motion to approve the appointments to the Lookingglass Emergency Services District Board. Riechman second the motion. Motion carried.
- e. Motion – Appointment of Jill Martin - President on the Santa Fe Levee District
- f. Motion – Appointment of Eric Varel - Trustee on the Santa Fe Levee District
Jansen made a motion to approve the appointments to the Santa Fe Levee District. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025

Riechman made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7 p.m.
Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder