

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

December 18, 2023 – 7 p.m.

Bradley Knolhoff, Chairman

Nelson Heinzmann, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff's Deputy Jordan Hodges called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on December 18, 2023.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Clark, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Rapien, Riechman, Schroeder, Veizer. Absent: Kuhl, Rakers, Strieker. 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 November 20, 2023 budget hearing and regular meeting. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

County Clerk Vicky Albers read a letter from Coroner Phil Moss expressing his gratitude to the board for approval of his new coroner's truck and for moving the Coroner's Office and Morgue into the former Animal Control building. He noted that, on numerous occasions, he has had to bring family members of deceased individuals to the Coroner's Office for identification purposes or to see their loved one for a final time. The new facility enables him to do his job more professionally.

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- a. Motion – Semi-Annual Reports from the Offices of Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner and County Clerk & Recorder Vicky Albers
Arentsen made a motion to approve the reports. Schroeder seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder
 1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

- i. Motion – Lawrence Jansen Map Amendment from Agricultural (A) to Agricultural-Residential 10 (AR-10). The property is in St. Rose Township.
Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the map amendment. Schroeder seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Absent), Rakers (Absent), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Absent), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0.
 - ii. Motion – Ordinance to Approve Zoning Schedule of Filing Fees
Staser said the ordinance increases commercial and industrial fees from 7 cents per square foot to 10 cents per square foot. There is an amendment and additional language for special use permits for commercial solar with the fee set at \$2000 per megawatt and the special use extension fee of \$1,000. Staser said the county did not previously have a fee for the special use extension. The fee structure was changed to “per megawatt” because in the preliminary stages of these projects, the developers do not always know the intended amount of space that will be utilized, so it’s easier to calculate the fee per megawatt.
Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the new fees.
Haselhorst seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Absent), Rakers (Absent), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Absent), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0.
- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
No Report.
 - c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Motion – Heinzmann said the committee met Dec. 11. Bil Schmalz of Einstein Consulting provided an update for his fiscal year with total costs being up over \$179,000 over last year, medical claims are up \$197,000 due to more surgeries and such this year. Pharmacy and fixed costs were both down. For the final month of the county’s fiscal year, expenses to date are up 16 percent over budget. Reimbursements were \$467,000 which was also 16 percent over budget. Other monthly expenses were consistent with previous months. The next meeting will be in February.
 - d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
No Report.
 - e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
 - 1. Schroeder said the new Animal Control Warden Tony Petrea has been on the job since Dec. 1 and is doing a great job. Doc Brown gave an update on the feral cat population. He reiterated that the county had a confirmed case of rabies in a bat. He said the job of Animal Control is to protect the public from rabies, and the

rabies vaccination and tag fee system is mandated by the state. When these rabid bats are lying dead, this attracts the attention of feral cats and dogs. A non-vaccinated animal could easily pass the disease onto humans, which can be life-threatening. Animal Control was recently contacted by the Army Corps of Engineers at Carlyle Lake to take care of feral cats near the boat ramps. Since then, there have been problems with the Animal Control Warden getting harassed, traps being stolen and citizens feeding the feral cats (in spite of signs that state that feeding the cats is prohibited). Anyone caught interfering with the county's program, will be prosecuted. If the public wants to help, they should stop harassing the warden, stop feeding the animals and stop stealing traps. They could assist by helping to capture the feral cats. The best thing they could do to save the animals is to take them home, but they first will have to pay for a rabies vaccination and having the cat spayed or neutered.

NOTE: Mike Rakers entered the meeting.

f. Finance – David Veizer

Veizer reported the committee met and all bills were approved.

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Trame said the monthly reports were in the packets, and the county's share of video gaming proceeds for the month of November was \$7,970.11. The county tax sale was held earlier that day with the taxes sold on 221 properties.

i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

Arentsen made a motion to approve the report. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

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 the county has been planning on resurfacing Albers Road from Route 161 to Interstate 64 but has been waiting on the state to complete the joint agreement, which states that the state is the lead agency with an 80/20 split in cost. There are two resolutions to approve for this.

i. Motion – Joint Funding Agreement for Federal Funding for Construction Work and Resolution for Improvement by the County Under the Illinois Highway Code.

K. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the resolutions. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

ii. Motion – Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Payment of the County

Engineer's Salary. This allows the Highway Department to use Motor Fuel Tax funding to reimburse the county for Behrens' salary.

K. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the resolution. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Behrens said the engineering firm which is tracking the mine subsidence on Court Road believes the subsidence has stopped. He will be contact the state bridge office for more information on opening the township bridge on Court Road after any necessary repairs are completed. It is anticipated that Monterey Coal will pay for the needed repairs. Norfolk Southern Railroad has been working on crossings throughout the county with little advance notice to the Highway Department. A complaint has been filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding how these projects have been handled by the railroad.

iii. Motion – Real Estate Contract for 2210 Franklin Street, Carlyle
No action was taken on this issue. B. Knolhoff explained that the board had hoped to be entering into a contract for the purchase of property, a building owned by the former Timken/Railbearing company and adjacent to the Highway Department; however, the deal did not go through.

j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen

1. Hilmes said the committee met Dec. 12 and discussed the state-mandated Paid Leave For All Workers Act that takes effect Jan. 1, 2024. Per the resolution, part-time, seasonal and temporary employees will receive one hour of paid leave for every 40 hours worked with a maximum of 40 hours that can roll over into the next year; however, no more than 80 hours can be accrued. Employees can take a minimum of 4 hours of leave at a time and must give their supervisor at least 48 hours of notice of the intended leave.

i. Motion – Paid Leave For All Resolution

Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the Resolution. Riechman seconded the motion.

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

k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann said the committee met Dec. 15 and discussed several items on the agenda.

i. Motion – Resolution Setting Election Judge Compensation

County Clerk Albers said the State Board of Elections has increased its reimbursement for election judges from \$45 to \$65 per judge; however, the county is required to pass a resolution to approve an increase in the election judge compensation. The county is increasing the pay to \$200 plus an additional \$20 for anyone who completes the training. This puts the pay closer to minimum wage for the judges who work 15-16 hours on Election Day. B. Knolhoff said hopefully this will entice more citizens to sign up to be election judges. Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resolution.

Schroeder seconded the motion.

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

ii. Motion – Established 2024 County Board Meeting Schedule

All meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. with the exception of the January and February meetings which are moved from the third Monday to the third Tuesday due to Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents' Day holidays. The July meeting is moved from the third Monday to the fourth Monday due to the Clinton County Fair.

Heinzmann made a motion to approve the schedule. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

iii. Motion – Disposition of the Old Health Building

B. Knolhoff said the board needs to decide what to do with the current Health Department facility (the former Wiegman Ford building), which also houses the Regional Superintendent of Schools and Workforce Development. The Regional Superintendent of Schools has indicated that, so far, he has not been able to find a different space to rent. B. Knolhoff said the board can make a motion either way. With option one, the county can proceed with tearing the building down and turning it into a parking lot, which is covered in Phase Two of the county's contract with Johannes Construction and will cost \$135,960. Option two is to keep the building and sell it to the Regional Superintendent of Schools for a nominal fee, possibly \$1, with the understanding that the county would have first chance to buy the building back for the same nominal fee. After a lengthy discussion regarding the need for additional parking, options for future office space for the Superintendent of Schools and the safety of the existing health building, a motion was made to proceed with option one.

K. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote to tear down the building and build a parking lot. Riechman seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (No), B. Knolhoff (Abstain), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Absent), Rakers (No), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Absent), Veizer (No). Motion Carried 9-3 with 1 abstain.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee met Dec. 13 and received an update from Kyle Markus and Mike Mazzitello. All of the surveys are complete at the Germantown, Kaskaskia College and Bullfrog tower sites with the Trenton site nearly completed. Tower bids are being sent out and are due in February. The committee anticipates construction to start shortly thereafter. Engineers are determining what needs to be done to the tower at the Sheriff's Department to hold extra equipment. Shelters for the tower sites are

under construction at the Birmingham, Alabama site. Everything seems to be moving ahead steadily.

- b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman
No Report.
- c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff
 - 1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met Nov. 27 and approved a payment of \$477,992.98 to Johannes Construction. The payment included millwork and cabinets, interior doors, windows and drywall and painting. Ceiling and flooring is being installed along with other items. K. Knolhoff walked through on Friday and there was quite a bit of work to be done. Architect Gary Karasek scheduled a meeting for Dec. 21 to discuss the construction schedule and a projected completion date.
- d. Veterans – Greg Riechman
 - 1. Riechman said the committee remains active with the Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee at Kaskaskia College. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 4.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl
 - 1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.
Clark made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- b. 708 Mental Health Board – Holly Clark
No Report.
- c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien
 - 1. Rapien said the committee met Dec. 12 and discussed ongoing progress with Cloudpoint on the current hydrant layer and the county's school layout. Schools are going to move forward with the numbering of classrooms for better identification during a potential emergency.
- 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
 - 1. Rakers reported on the Broadband Initiative in cooperation with Kaskaskia College. The Office of Illinois Broadband will be hosting a 16-week program with some webinars and some in-person meetings. The county will need to establish a diversified team of individuals to take part in the program. Once the program is completed, the group should be ready to write a grant. Rakers said there is \$1 billion to be disbursed for broadband projects in the state for unserved and underserved areas. The first step is to get a team established with representatives from throughout the county. Another step is getting a wide range of citizens to complete a survey regarding their internet

access. If anyone is interested in being a team member, they should contact Rakers.
The next webinar is Jan. 4.

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Arentsen seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried 13-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. B. Knolhoff told board members that Clinton County will celebrate 200 years on Dec. 27, 2024. He plans to form a County Bicentennial Committee with members from throughout the county.

15. NEW BUSINESS

1. B. Knolhoff wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

Heinzmann made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7 p.m. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder