

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2024 – 7 p.m.

Bradley Knolhoff, Chairman

Nelson Heinzmann, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following opening prayer, a moment of silence was held for former board member Keith Nordike who passed away Feb. 14, 2024 and had served on the board for 8 years from 2014-2022.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff Dan Travous called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on February 20, 2024.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kuhl, Rakers, Rapien, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Absent: Clark. 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 January 16, 2024 regular meeting as revised. Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- a. B. Knolhoff recognized Vince Rolves, who will turn 100 on Feb. 23, 2024. Rolves served the country during World War II and was a former prisoner of war. During his 18 months in captivity, he endured the harsh East Prussian environment, was forced to work hard labor in a prison camp under the threat of death and was subjected to bitter cold and extreme malnutrition. Rolves was honored with a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal, and his decorated military career is marked by a passionate perseverance through dire circumstances. State Rep. Blaine Wilhour also presented Rolves with a House Resolution honoring him on his 100th birthday. Motion – Proclamation honoring Wilbert “Vince” Rolves on his 100th Birthday and declaring February 23, 2024 as “Vince Rolves Day” in Clinton County. Riechman made a motion to approve the proclamation. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder
 1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser
 - i. Motion – Flood Plain Variance – Keith Athmer – Lookingglass Township
Staser explained that Athmer has already gone through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the necessary state permit which is about a two-year process.
Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the variance. Rapien seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.
 - ii. Motion – Special Use Family Split – Daniel and Kelli Maue – Sugarcreek Township. The Maues live on this property and are requesting to split 3 acres to allow their daughter to build a single-family dwelling.
Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the special use.
Arentsen seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.
- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
 1. Rakers said board members have been working with the Broadband Internet Initiative Committee. To date, 435 surveys have been completed and the committee has a goal of 600.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 1. Heinzmann said the committee met Feb. 12. The monthly report from Einstein Consulting shows that total costs and medical and pharmacy utilization are all up compared to a year ago while fixed costs were slightly down. For the first two months of the year, the county is about 21 percent over budget without reimbursements and slightly under budget with reimbursements. The committee will continue to discuss the best options for the May 1 renewal at its next meeting on March 11.
- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
No Report.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
 1. Schroeder said Animal Control Warden Tony Petrea is implementing Jot Form on the county website to allow people to fill out and submit adoption and rabies tag paperwork online. The committee is trying to find the best method to collect unpaid

rabies tag fees. Rabies tags are required per county code and the state's Animal Control Act.

f. Finance – David Veizer

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

Veizer made a motion to approve the report. Rapien seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann

No Report.

h. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker

1. Sheriff Dan Travous said the county is well ahead of schedule on the implementation of body cameras which are required by state law by Jan. 1, 2025. The cameras have been installed in the vehicles; however, IT staff is still working on technical issues. Travous said the cameras, which should be operational by next week, will benefit the officers as well as local citizens.

i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff

1. Monthly County Engineer's Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens said the committee opened rock bids on Jan. 25 for the county and townships. For the townships, Beelman Trucking had the low bids for Brookside, East Fork, Germantown, Irishtown, Meridian, Santa Fe, Sugar Creek and Wade; Cal Trucking was low bid on one item for Lake Township; Brink Brothers was awarded items from Brookside, Clement, East Fork and Meridian; Zachry Farms was awarded items for Breese, Irishtown, Lake, Sugar Creek and Wade; and S.C. Transport was awarded a couple items for Lookingglass. For the county, Beelman Trucking was the low bid on slag and riprap, and Zachry Farms was awarded the rock and limestone chips.

- i. Motion – Resolution to award the low Motor Fuel Tax Rock Bids for Township and County Roadways.

Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the bids. Arentsen seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.

- ii. Motion – Approval of Crosswalk Permit for the Village of Germantown. The village will paint and maintain the crosswalk which goes across a county highway.

Schroeder made a motion to approve the permit. Jansen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Behrens said the state opened bids for the resurfacing project on Albers Road with Killian Corporation as the low bidder. It is anticipated that the project will start

sometime after May 1 and should take about a month to complete. The committee will open bids on March 5 for the bridge north of Hoffman. Start date is anticipated for June 1. Oil bids will be opened at the end of March. Sheriff Travous asked about the mine subsidence on Route 161 and issues with drainage along the ditches on the west side of Albers. There is concern that as the subsidence continues, damage is getting closer to Sugar Creek Bridge. Travous asked if a plan is in place should the bridge be compromised. Behrens said the only conversation he has had with IDOT was concerning a project they had planned on Route 161; however, that was before the last subsidence took place. He does not know the current status of that work. Behrens said the committee discussed the potential for increased traffic on Albers/Damiansville Road if/when Route 161 is closed for repairs. A traffic count on the road is underway to provide baseline data. B. Knolhoff said that the committee's theory is that a standard amount of traffic exists on Albers-Damiansville Road; however, if the bridge were to fail (or if Route 161 were closed for a significant amount of time due to the mine subsidence), traffic would be detoured to the county road and deterioration could quickly occur. Having traffic counts now would provide data if needed in the future when trying to seek compensation from Exxon-Mobile. The county will investigate further as to what areas are undermined, and coal mine maps will be provided by the Assessor's Office.

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

1. Hilmes reported that several new items were discussed when the committee met on Feb. 13. The committee has reached an agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents deputies and correctional officers in the Sheriff's Department. Approval will be tabled until next month after the final contract is received and reviewed.
 - i. Motion – Payout claim for Sheriff's Department employee Taylor Davis for 202 hours totaling \$5,888.30.
Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the payout. Arentsen seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.
 - ii. Motion – Lateral transfer of new Sheriff's Department employee Jason Davis. Davis has 12 years of experience and will be hired as a Step 5 with the transfer And pay rate retroactive to Jan. 24.
Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the lateral transfer. Rapien seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.
 - iii. Motion – Resignation and payout for Health Department employee Tamra Dugger. Her resignation was effective Feb. 1 and the payout is for 57.5 hours totaling \$1,666.35.

Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation and payout. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.

k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann

1. B. Knolhoff said the committee met Feb. 16 and discussed several items on the agenda.

i. Motion – Ordinance regarding Low-Income Housing Qualifications, Supervisor of Assessments Linda Mensing explained that the ordinance allows the county to opt out of a special assessment program that was passed by the state. The program would require the Assessment Office to annually verify that 15 percent of the units in low-income housing complexes were actually occupied by low-income residents. In turn, the property owner would receive a special assessment. Opting out of this program will save the Assessment Office a great deal of additional manhours. She noted that her office already uses the income-approach when calculating the assessment on housing complexes with more than six units, so they are already receiving a reduced assessment. Surrounding counties are opting out of the program as well. Mensing noted that Eagle View will be conducting a new aerial flight for GIS maps in mid-March for a cost of \$98,713.32. The payment will be paid over a three-year period from GIS funds which are collected from recording fees.

Arentsen made a motion to approve the ordinance. Strieker seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

ii. Motion – Resolution authorizing the sale of county-owned property at 1204 Mary Irene Street in New Baden via sealed bids with a minimum bid of \$5,000. This property, located north of New Baden, was acquired by the county through the delinquent tax process, and the county later tore down a condemned house and cleaned up the lot.

Strieker made a motion to approve the resolution. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

iii. Motion – Resolution to prohibit the expenditure of county funding for the migrant crisis.

B. Knolhoff said a similar resolution was adopted in Effingham County. State Rep. Blaine Wilhour explained that the possibility of having an influx of migrants affects local communities not only with infrastructure and resources but also with the amount of money being spent by the state. Wilhour said sanctuary cities, like Chicago, are overflowing, and the big concern for small towns is an ongoing effort to build migrant shelters outside of the city. He said its important for local governments to be proactive and send a message that if Chicago can't afford this, neither can the smaller communities.

Arentsen made a motion to approve the resolution. Rapien seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee had meetings on Feb. 6 and 14 to open and discuss the bids for the radio tower construction. The committee is also reviewing generator bids, and dbSpectra is visiting the radio tower sites to study and report on any potential signal interference at the sites. Haselhorst said the radio project is on pace to be operational by early 2025.

i. Motion – Approve the Radio Tower Construction Bid

Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the bid from Sabre Industries, Inc. for \$1,330,105 for the construction of four new towers and to upgrade the existing towers. Kuhl seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.

b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman

No Report.

c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff

1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met Jan. 26 and approved a payment of \$86,508.90 for cabinets, doors, plumbing and electrical work. A walk-through was done Jan. 29 to create a punch list of remaining construction items. Most of these items have been fixed. The standby generator will not be in until March. The Health Department started moving into the new facility today and hopes to be completed by Friday. A date for an open house will be determined. K. Knolhoff reminded the board chairman that the County Board needs to start negotiating finance issues with the Health Board to determine who will be responsible for future expenses.

d. Veterans – Greg Riechman

1. Riechman said the committee met Feb. 15 and continues to brainstorm with new ideas. The committee is coordinating with the Veterans Tribute Committee and board members from Whispering Pines to promote veterans' events. Riechman said he is also working with Carl Huels to put together an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. for Clinton County veterans. There are currently 77 applicants, and more are expected. Flights will take place in October 2024 and May 2025.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl

1. Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said if anyone would like to visit the new Health Department, please stop by. The department has been working with the 708 Mental Health Board to expand mental health services in the county.

i. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.

Kuhl made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report.

Arentsen 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 reviewed the monthly financial report presented by John Skain. The committee discussed progress with Cloudpoint and was notified that they have qualified for a cyber security grant.
- 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
No Report

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Absent), 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 14-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

Arentsen made a motion to adjourn until Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m. Jansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder