

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

January 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 January 16, 2024.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Heinzmann made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023 regular meeting. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. Nellie Beatty of ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care) of Illinois over Clinton County spoke to the board about the program. ROSC is administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services and is aimed at filling in the gaps in services for opioid and substance-abuse treatment. She said Opioid Settlement Funding is available and local organizations can apply for grant funding. She spoke about local support groups such as Clinton County Emotions Anonymous (CCEA), Smart Recovery Training, Take Action Coalition of Clinton County and Friends and Family Teen Focus. If there are any county-related programs that deal with recovery from substance abuse or mental health, ROSC is available to help connect people in need with those services. Beatty spoke about the importance of the Illinois Youth Survey which assesses opioid use among youth and provides data about the problems in the county while serving as proof of the need for continued funding. Beatty said they hope to eventually have a zoom link where residents in every town in the county can meet to work toward recovery. Crystal Jordan provided additional information about CCEA which meets every Monday at 6 p.m. in Carlyle (remote attendance is optional) and every fourth Monday of the month in Breese. Jordan said Emotions Anonymous is a 12-step program to help those in recovery from not only substance abuse, but also other challenging situations such as domestic abuse, parenting a special needs child, infant

loss, loneliness and more. People can talk through their emotions in a safe environment and learn new ways of coping.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

- i. Motion – Ronald and Carol Foppe – Map Amendment from Agricultural (A) to Agricultural-Residential (A-R) for 13.3 acres on Surge Road in St. Rose Township.

Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the map amendment.

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 (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 13-0.

- ii. Motion – Jim and Ruth Kalmer – Map Amendment from Residential (R-1) to Agricultural (A) for 10 acres on Crackerneck Road in Sugar Creek Township.

Rapien 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), Kuhl (Absent), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 13-0.

- iii. Annual Housing Report – Staser presented the report for stick-built homes in the county for 2023. The county issued 41 permits for stick-built homes, and there were 23 permits issued by cities who maintain their own zoning. These homes bring an estimated increased value of \$30,240,000 to the county. The zoning office also issued 222 building permits for other structures for a total of 263 building permits which is about 13 percent higher than the five-year average. There were seven subdivision plats approved by the Subdivision Committee. The Zoning Board of Appeals remained busy hearing 80 cases including eight family splits, five map amendments, 13 special uses and 54 variances. The zoning board also handled two text amendments and two fee schedule changes. The board remains very active in the new year with nine cases heard in January and eight on the agenda for February.

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

c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Motion – Heinzmann said the committee did not meet in January; however, the monthly report from Einstein Consulting shows that the county is about 12.4 percent over budget for the first month of the new fiscal year without

reimbursements. Bill Schmalz of Einstein noted that the county is a little higher on medical utilization costs as compared to last year while pharmacy and fixed costs are stable or lower. The committee is looking into the best options for the May 1 renewal. The county received a check from TrueRx for \$4,335.

- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
No Report.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
 - 1. Schroeder said the one-year builder’s warranty for the new Animal Control facility was up at the end of December. Prior to that date, board members Joe Jansen and Mike Hilmes inspected the facility and addressed some minor concerns with the contractor. Animal Control Warden Tony Petrea has been busy and is doing a good job.
- f. Finance – David Veizer
 - 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame
Trame said the monthly reports were in the packets, and video gaming proceeds for the month of December were \$7,065.27.
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Riechman made a motion to approve the report. Heinzmann 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 deck is shot on Prairie Creek Bridge on Huey Road, north of Hoffman, and the bridge is scheduled to be replaced this summer. The resolution appropriates \$1,101,517 from the Rebuild Illinois program to fund the project.
 - i. Motion – Resolution for Improvement by the County Under the Illinois Highway Code for Prairie Creek Bridge on Huey Road.
K. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the resolution. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Behrens said the Highway Department will be receiving bids for rock for township and county roads on Jan. 25. The low bidders will be announced at the February meeting. Estimates are being sought for a new roof on the Highway Department building. IDOT will open bids for the Albers Road resurfacing project on Jan. 19. The Highway Department is advertising for a new maintenance employee.

- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen
No Report.
- k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann said the committee met Jan. 12 and discussed several items on the agenda.
 - i. Motion – Resolution in Support of American Owned Farmland
Mark Litteken, president of the Clinton County Farm Bureau, said the agency recently changed its policy regarding farmland ownership. Litteken said the previous policy stated the Farm Bureau supports the continuation of programs to require the recording of foreign ownership in the United States; however, this verbiage was not enough. This was amended to seek legislation to prohibit all foreign ownerships either directly, indirectly or through other agents for all land, water and minerals within the boundaries of the United States of America. He said this was initiated due to calls from farmers who were complaining that farmland is scarce and hard to come as it is but now there are foreign owners of farmland in Clinton County. Overwhelmingly the Farm Bureau membership stated its opposition to foreign ownership. The resolution is aimed at protecting this land and ensuring that it remains American owned. B. Knolhoff said the resolution states that the county supports laws prohibiting foreign ownership but that doesn't mean the county can govern investments. B. Knolhoff said the purpose for the resolution is two-fold: to let citizens of Clinton County, especially landowners, know that this is a threat and to realize that there are foreign investors and foreign adversaries who are in some cases lending money for citizens to purchase farmland in Clinton County. B. Knolhoff said this is scary for future generations knowing that they may lose control of the farmland that has been in their family for generations. Secondly, the resolution will be sent to area legislators requesting them to act on our behalf.
Arentsen made a motion to approve the resolution. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion Carried

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst
 - 1. Haselhorst said the committee did not meet; however, there are two motions for tower site properties for the board to consider. Bids for the tower construction will be opened and reviewed at the next committee meeting on Feb. 6.
 - i. Motion – Purchase of Property on Bullfrog Lane for \$15,000. The property is located north of Carlyle, near Keyesport.
Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the purchase. 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 (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 13-0.
 - ii. Motion – Lease Agreement with Germantown Township
Haselhorst made a motion to approve a 40-year lease agreement with Germantown

Township for \$1 per year. Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

- b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman
No Report.
- c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff
 - 1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met Dec. 21 and approved a payment of \$86,508.90 to Johannes Construction. The payment included doors, painting, elevator and mechanical work. K. Knolhoff said it is anticipated that the building will be completed by Jan. 26 with a final walk-through to review any punch list items on Jan. 29.
- d. Veterans – Greg Riechman
 - 1. Riechman said the committee met Jan. 4 with 17 people in attendance. Goals of the committee are to meet monthly, continue to improve communication and promote veterans' events.
 - i. Motion – Authorize Vietnam Veterans Chapter 269 of Clinton County to Make Improvements to the Clinton County Veterans Memorial
Riechman made a motion to authorize the improvements. Jansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl
 - 1. Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel gave a monthly financial report. The new emergency preparedness employee Brett Moss secured a \$5,000 grant through the Illinois Medical Reserve Corps which will pay for some training for local emergency volunteers.
 - i. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.
K. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- b. 708 Mental Health Board – Holly Clark
No Report.
- c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien
No Report.
- 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

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Rapien 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 (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 13-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Motion – Rescind Last Month’s Vote to Tear Down the Health Department Building for a Parking Lot

Rakers said he requested that the board revisit the decision they made in January to tear down the old Health Department building for a parking lot. The Health Department also houses the Regional Superintendent of Education (ROE) office, and when the vote was taken last month, it was unclear as to what the county’s responsibility for providing office space for the ROE. He clarified that, by statute, the county is responsible to supply a building, office and office supplies. Currently, ROE has four full-time employees and a lot of the main financial activities for the regional office are handled in Clinton County. A proposal for an alternate office space for ROE would cost the county \$1,500 per month. Regional Superintendent Mat Renaud could move the office space to Mt. Vernon, but that would mean the current employees would have to relocate and any teacher training and certification work would also be moved out of the county. Renaud has offered to take over all maintenance and insurance of the existing building with the county selling it for \$1. He would then have room to expand and could potentially add 20-25 employees. As part of the contract with ROE, the county would have first chance to buy back the building for \$1 if ROE vacates the building for any reason. From a financial standpoint, with the vote that was approved last month, Rakers said the county would be paying over \$130,000 for tearing down the building and creating a parking lot plus the monthly rental expense for the ROE office. By keeping the Health Department building, the ROE would maintain local jobs for the employees working here and could potentially expand. Clark asked about the county’s liability for the old building after selling it to ROE. Rakers said part of the contract would relieve the county of all maintenance and all liability associated with the old building. ROE would take over all utilities and insurance. B. Knolhoff said in either situation, the county will no longer own or be liable for the building. He added that the change order with Johannes to proceed with Phase 2 for tearing down the old building and creating a parking lot has not yet been signed. K. Knolhoff asked why Washington County is not required to supply an ROE office, and he also noted that ROE owns its own office in Jefferson County, so two of the four counties in the ROE are not being held responsible for providing office space. Rakers said Washington County had supplied ROE with office space; however, ROE chose to close the office due to low activity. The board discussed the need for additional parking and the condition of the roof and other maintenance issues at the current health building. After a lengthy discussion, B. Knolhoff said he currently has authorization from the board to sign the change order, so he needs direction from the board as to whether to continue with the change order or to rescind last month’s vote.

Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to rescind last month’s vote and keep the old health building. Arentsen seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (No), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (No), Hilmes (Present), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Abstain), K. Knolhoff (No), Kuhl (Absent), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (No), Riechman (No), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent).

Motion Carried 6-5 with one voting present and one abstaining.

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Rapien made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder