

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
July 19, 2022 – 7:15 p.m.

Larry Johnson, Chairman

Mike Kreke, 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 7:15 p.m. on July 19, 2022. The meeting was held with options for Zoom and Conference Call.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Heinzmann, Johnson, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Middendorff, Netemeyer, Nordike, Rapien, Strieker, Sullivan, Taylor, Wessel, Wesselmann. Absent: Kreke & White. Let the record reflect that we have a quorum.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2022 regular meeting. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

B. Knolhoff reported on a meeting held earlier that evening in Albers regarding the mine subsidence along Route 161, east of Albers, caused by the former Monterey No. 2 Coal Mine. Any landowner or homeowner affected by the subsidence is asked to contact Exxon Mobile's contact person Maurice Spihlmann at 618-604-8473. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation are also involved in remediation. Netemeyer added that if your home was built prior to Monterey No. 2's start, any damage is covered by the mine. However, if your house was built after the mine opened, the homeowner is required to have their own subsidence insurance.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning/Subdivision Committee – Craig Taylor

Staser said there are two subdivisions for the board to consider. The Health Department, County Engineer and the respective townships have reviewed both.

- i. Motion to Approve – Final Plat - 3 Lot - Andy Huelsmann's First Subdivision Township

This 3-lot family split is located south of Breese. Lots 1 and 2 are each 1 acre and lot 3 is 2 acres. The property is within 1-1/2 miles of the Breese city limits, and the city approved the subdivision on July 5. Staser said this is a family split and only qualified family members can build on the property. Middendorff added that if they built a house and lived in it for two years, there is nothing to prohibit them from selling to someone outside the family. Staser concurred that the current zoning code has no restrictions or time limits if the family member chooses to build and sell the property. Staser said that is not the intent, but it could happen. Middendorff said this could be a problem with all family split subdivisions as the ordinance is currently drafted.

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote. Taylor seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent).
Motion Carried 12-0.

- ii. Motion to Approve – Final Plat – 1 Lot - Chad Ratermann’s 3rd Subdivision, - Germantown Township

The lot is a little over 2 acres. Staser explained that the first lot was split off in 2010 for Chad Ratermann to build on. A second lot was split off in 2019 to allow a brother to build. That second lot was vacated in 2021 since the family decided to build a machine shed in the area. They are now asking for a third lot for the brother to build on. There are three brothers who own the surrounding farm ground.

Wesselmann questioned if the property is in the flood plain. Staser said there is ground to the south that floods, but this lot is not in the floodplain.

Rapien made a motion for a roll call vote. Netemeyer seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent).
Motion Carried 12-0.

Staser added that the Zoning Board of Appeals will have a public hearing on September 7 to consider amending the current language of the family split. One of the proposed changes is that the family split would only be for mother, father or children (currently also includes brother and sister). Another proposed change is increasing lot size from 1 acre to 3 acres. The County Board will have final approval on any changes. Staser also reported that the Zoning Board is discussing an increase to the residential setback for any new solar farms in the county. The changes would not affect any existing solar farms. Staser said she receives a lot of complaints about the maintenance of solar farms and complaints that they are located to close to surrounding residences. Staser reported that she was elected to the executive committee for the Illinois Association of County Zoning Officials, and she is the most southern Zoning Administrator in the state to hold a position on the board. She is looking forward to the opportunity to represent the county on the board.

- b. Economic Development/Enterprise Zone – Keith Nordike
No Report
- c. Tourism Committee – Jim Sullivan
The next meeting will be August 1.
- d. Environmental Concerns/Unincorporated/Solid Waste – Nelson Heinzmann
No Report
- e. Assessment Committee – Bryan Wessel
Wessel said there are some new laws going into effect next year, such as new tax exemptions for the blind and disabled; however, the criteria is still being determined. Supervisor of Assessments Linda Mensing said her office will continue to be updated on the qualifications and she will keep the public informed. The county received a PTAB appeals decision on June 21, and the Board of Review won the appeal. There are still three cases pending.
- f. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
Heinzmann said the monthly report shows that the total fixed costs, medical claims and pharmacy claims are all down considerably as compared to this time last year. The County Board had offered employees the option for a Flexible Spending Account; however, the FSA is not moving forward due to lack of interest. For this Fiscal Year, expenses without reimbursements, were under budget by 30 percent. With reimbursements, the expenses were under budget by 66.93 percent. The next meeting is August 8.
- g. Facilities Committee – Ken Knolhoff
K. Knolhoff reported that on June 25 the air conditioning unit went out on the courthouse after some of the wiring caught fire. The Carlyle Fire Department responded, and there was no damage to the roof or the facility. Shortly after, Kohnen Air Conditioning and Heating of Germantown began installation of the new HVAC system. Within seven working days, the system was operational. He thanked Kohnen for their quick service. On June 30, the courthouse annex (jail) was struck by lightning that affected some door locks, cameras and other electronics. Knolhoff thanked Sheriff Travous for working through both of these issues.
 - i. Motion to Approve – U-Studios Inc. for Design and Architecture Work for Jail Renovation
K. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Nordike seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wessermann (Yes); White (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.
 - ii. Motion to Approve – Bid for Probation Department Offices

Chief Probation Officer Carla Stalnaker was needing more office space and Circuit Clerk Rod Kloeckner agreed to give up part of his storage area, adjacent to the probation office. The bid is from Joe Ruffino for \$9,200.

K. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Sullivan seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

h. Animal Control/County Farm Committee – Craig Taylor

Taylor reported that May 22 was the last day for former full-time warden Bryanna Becker, and the committee considered two rounds of applicants before choosing Becker's replacement. Taylor said the facility was periodically staffed by one part-time employee. He worked his last day on July 14. The next day, representatives from the Humane Society, along with Wesselmann, met to try to find homes and/or rescue groups for the animals at the facility. Taylor said there are currently four dogs at the facility, and one will be taken by Washington County Animal Control. Taylor said spring cleaning, general repairs and building maintenance are ongoing at the Animal Control facility. He said the county cannot take in anymore animals until the new animal control warden takes over. Rabies tags are up to date as a part-time employee has been assisting with this work. Taylor stressed that no animals were euthanized during this time period. Nordike commended Taylor, Taylor's wife and Wesselmann for their extra work at the facility, and he feels they should be compensated for their time.

i. Motion to Approve – Hiring of Full-Time Animal Control Warden Michaela Becherer. Johnson concurred with the appointment and asked Taylor to make the motion.

Taylor made a motion for a roll call vote. Nordike seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

ii. Motion to Approve – Clinton County Animal Control Manual

Taylor and Johnson thanked Wesselmann for her work on drafting the operational manual, and the State's Attorney for reviewing the document.

Taylor made a motion for a roll call vote. Wesselmann seconded the motion. Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (Yes); Nordike (Yes); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

i. Education Committee – James White

No Report

j. Veterans Committee – Bob Netemeyer
No Report

k. Finance/Health/Revolving Loan Committee/General Services/Judiciary – Brad Knolhoff
Nordike asked whether having eight people on the Finance Committee is a problem according to the Open Meetings Act. State’s Attorney J.D. Brandmeyer said he would review the act to see if there is any violation.

1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame

i. Motion to Approve – Treasurer’s Monthly Report.

B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The county received an oil check for \$15,359.92. Video gaming revenue for the past month was \$7,112.56. The first installment of tax distributions, totaling around \$31 million, were sent out by the Treasurer’s Office on Monday.

Knolhoff said the committee heard a report on the Kaskaskia College Broadband Internet Initiative. The group is halfway through the course work. Cheryl Brinkmann, Clinton County’s representative, said the related survey is still available on the county’s website. The results of the survey are very important in determining the needs of the county if the initiative progresses. The committee hopes to see some bids submitted for the proposed countywide 911 radio system by next month. Accountant Fred Becker is starting on the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget and will be reaching out the department heads for their input in the near future.

Johnson asked B. Knolhoff about the committee’s decision to withhold part of the contractor’s invoice on the Multipurpose Building due to issues with the concrete floor. Johnson said he understands the committee’s decision; however, withholding payment puts the contractor in a tight spot. He said to remember that the county does have a set amount of money in retention. B. Knolhoff said the Finance Committee had discussed the concerns with the concrete. B. Knolhoff subsequently met with the contractor and Engineer Pat Netemeyer on site. He said if Netemeyer were to sign off stating that the concrete met his required specs, the committee would reconsider payment of the full invoice amount. B. Knolhoff said the full board could have taken action tonight; however, he has not yet heard from Netemeyer.

l. Law Enforcement/EMA/Welfare/Safety/Liquor – James White
No Report

m. Road and Bridge Committee – Bryan Wessel

1. Monthly County Engineer’s Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens reported on the road in Fuehne Hills Subdivision. He said this is the first time since he’s been employed with the Highway Department that the county had to cash in someone’s bond to finish the road work. The dirt work is completed. The road has been oiled and chipped two times and they would like to do one more application. There is

still about \$11,500 remaining in the bond and the additional oiling will cost about \$8,000. Once that is completed, the township will take the road over sometime this fall. The Highway Department has allowed work on the Aviston/Albers Road project to be suspended for a few weeks. The contractor would like to do the hot mix widening and the seeding back-to-back and they do not intend to do the seeding until late August. The resurfacing project on Germantown Road will be bid in Springfield on August 5. It will likely be mid-September before the project starts. Behrens reported that a portion of West Tenth Street, where it crosses Crooked Creek, west of Centralia, will remain open following a recent judicial decision denying a petition to reverse that decision.

Nordike asked Behrens about the design work for the new culvert at Loepker Farms on Germantown Road. Behrens said the county pulled out the double pipe and replaced it with a single arch which is a slightly larger opening than what was there and should match the ditch both ways. Nordike said it does not match the ditch, and he asked if any grades were shot on the culvert. Behrens said he will have to inspect the project. Nordike also asked about the drop box that is in place by Timmermann Milk Hauling. He noted that it is 400 feet to the next driveway and water is running into a culvert in a nearby farmer's field, then under his driveway and into the ditch. He asked why a second drop box was not installed within those 400 feet. Behrens said he'll have to look into it, but he believes another drop box is in the plans and has not yet been completed.

Nordike also asked about ditch erosion issues on the east side of Jamestown Road near Jamestown. He is wondering why the county did not fix the issue with a concrete swale instead of continuing to dump dirt and rock. Behrens said the department is dumping dirt in the ditch whenever dirt is readily available. The plan is to build it back up and then rip rap the area. Nordike asked if concrete would eventually be poured. Behrens stated that the existing rip rap is getting washed out by erosion.

- n. Personnel/Labor Committee – Mike Kreke
No Report

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. 708 Mental Health Board/Area Agency on Aging – James White
Netemeyer reported that the committee reviewed the budgets from the various organizations who benefit from 708 funding, and the committee determined how much each entity would receive.
- b. County Health – James White
 - 1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report
 - B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report. Wessel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

B. Knolhoff said he recently heard some very favorable comments about the Health Department and wanted to commend all of the employees.

c. GIS Committee – Craig Taylor
No Report

d. 911 Committee – Mike Kreke
No Report

e. Technology Support – James White
No Report

f. UCCI – Jim Sullivan

1. The UCCI Conference will be held July 25-26 in Galena, and Sullivan plans to attend. UCCI will reimburse the county for all conference expenses.

11. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Taylor seconded the motion.

Heinzmann (Yes); Knolhoff, B (Yes), Knolhoff, K (Yes); Kreke (Absent); Middendorff (Yes); Netemeyer (No); Nordike (No); Rapien (Yes); Strieker (Yes); Sullivan (Yes); Taylor (Yes); Wessel (Yes); Wesselmann (Yes); White (Absent). Motion Carried 10-2.

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nordike had one additional question for Behrens regarding the ditch in front of Doc Timmermann's house on Breese-Germantown Road. Nordike said the county had put a culvert in front of the Breese Township building two years ago, and at that time, the Timmermanns had asked for a bid to put a culvert in front of their house. The Timmermanns indicated that they have never heard back from the county. Behrens said he was sure they had given the Timmermanns a bid, but he would check into it.

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022

Taylor made a motion to adjourn until Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7 p.m. Strieker seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder