

**CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**March 20, 2023 – 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 March 20, 2023.

**3. REMOTE ATTENDANCE**

Motion to Approve – Riechman made a motion to allow board member Holly Clark to attend the meeting remotely via telephone conference call. Haselhorst seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried.

**4. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

**5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to Approve – Arentsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the Feb. 20, 2023 regular meeting and the March 9, 2023 special meeting. Schroeder seconded the motion.  
Motion Carried.

**7. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**8. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD**

- a. Jordee Koehler, county director with the University of Illinois Extension Service, along with a team of educators highlighted the various services offered by Extension. The local Extension Service covers Bond, Jefferson, Marion, Washington and Clinton counties and is committed to providing research-based solutions to help the counties improve. Their motto is: “Together we build prosperity, ignite economic development, nurture health and safeguard our natural resources.” Koehler spoke about a recent community needs assessment which determined that one area that needs to be better addressed is financial literacy. Kara Boozer and Amber Heern spoke about youth development and the work that Extension does through the schools and the local 4-H programs. Boozer asked for the board’s help in finding a location for a small free food pantry. Jamie Mahlandt is the new financial educator for Extension and will be partnering with the youth development team. Christina Lueking focuses on agriculture and natural resources with the mission of

sustainability and being good stewards of the land. Koehler invited board members to reach out to Extension with any ideas for improving the county in the future.

- b. Rob Gerstenecker, Vice Chairman of the Clinton County Farm Bureau Board, said his agency looks forward to working with the County Board in the future. He reminded board members and department heads of the joint meeting on March 29 in St. Rose.
- c. Dave Bunge, President of Azimuth Renewables, a solar development company based in St. Louis, offered comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Zoning Fee Schedule. He noted that his company has been working on a commercial-scale solar facility in Clinton County along Sand Ridge Road since late last summer. Bunge asked the board to consider delaying a vote on the new fee schedule until next month to give the board more time to review the proposal and to give stakeholders, like himself, more time to process the potential impact of the increased fees. Bunge said his company agrees that the board should cover its costs associated with these applications and zoning hearings. However, if the board chooses to move forward, he asked that the board consider a cap on the per acre fee schedule to keep in line with the actual costs incurred by the county and consider offering a refund on any unused portion of the application and permit fees.

## **9. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

No Report

## **10. STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

Staser commented on the proposed amendments to the Zoning Fee Schedule. Along with the administrative costs of processing the applications and holding the public hearings, Staser stressed that a lot of these larger commercial solar projects are possibly 20- to 30-year projects. The county has special use fees and building permit fees which are one-time fees; however, these projects are maintained by the Zoning Office for 20 to 30 years. There are considerable administrative costs and maintenance complaints that will continue for decades.

    - i. Motion – Map Amendment - David Ratermann - Agricultural (A) to Agricultural Residential (A-R) Breese Township

Ratermann wants to rezone 10 acres of a 36-acre tract on Lake Branch Road. Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the map amendment. Rakers seconded the motion.  
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 (Absent).  
Motion Carried 14-0.
    - ii. Motion – Subdivision - Rick Hegger’s First Subdivision - 2 Lot - Irishtown Township

Staser explained that this is on Walcott Road and Hegger is splitting 1 acre from a 3-acre tract.  
Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the subdivision. Haselhorst seconded the motion.  
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 (Absent).  
Motion Carried 14-0.

b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers

1. Rakers said there are two motions on the agenda with the payments coming from the county's Hotel/Motel Tax. Sponsorship of the 2024 Crappie Tournament is split with the city of Carlyle.

i. Motion – Payment of \$3,750 for the County's Share of Sponsorship of the 2024 Crappie Fishing Tournament

Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to authorize the payment. K. Knolhoff seconded the motion.

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

ii. Motion – Payment of \$2,500 for Video of County Highlights Produced by On the Hook Fishing

Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to authorize the payment. Riechman seconded the motion.

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

c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann said the committee met March 13. Bill Schmalz of Einstein Consulting gave a health insurance update. Total costs, compared to last year, were up \$53,000, medical claims were up \$42,000, pharmacy claims were up \$13,000 and fixed costs were down \$3,000. Expenses for the third month of the Fiscal Year, without reimbursements, were 15.4 percent over budget. With reimbursements, the expenses were under budget 76 percent. The committee discussed the renewal with Delta Dental, and a recommendation will be made at the April meeting. The committee discussed and recommended the offering of an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with the May insurance renewal. EAP will provide employees with 24/7 over-the-phone access to counseling services related to stress, anxiety, depression, mental health and other factors.

i. Motion – Addition of New Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Benefit for All County Employees

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

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

d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen

B. Knolhoff said that the former Animal Control Building, which mostly consists of a two-car garage and an office, is now empty. The coroner is in need of an updated space for a county morgue. The committee is looking for the full board's blessing to move forward with this project.

i. Motion to Approve – Pursue Converting Former Animal Control Building to County Morgue.

Arentsen made a motion to pursue the building renovation. Haselhorst seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

e. Finance – David Veizer

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Trame reported that the county's share of video gaming proceeds for February was \$9,895.47.

i. Motion to Approve – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

Riechman made a motion to approve the report. Strieker seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

ii. Motion to Approve – Resolution to Execute a Deed of Conveyance of the County's Interest for a Parcel Auctioned at the Surplus Property Sale on Sept. 2, 2022.

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

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

iii. Motion to Approve – Illinois Municipal Lease-Purchase Agreement with Government Capital Corporation.

B. Knolhoff noted that the approved moving forward with the new countywide radio system at the special board meeting on March 9 at a cost of just over \$5.8 million. While the county has enough money in reserve to pay for the project, the lease-purchase agreement enables the county to borrow just over \$4.8 million, which would accumulate interest while in escrow. From there, the county is obligated to maintain the lease-purchase agreement for two years. In that two-year period, the county would be responsible for two payments estimated at \$612,000 each year. After the second year, the county has an option to purchase the whole project. This benefits the county in that it allows the money in reserve to stay invested in local banks at favorable interest rates. The Finance Committee had reviewed this proposal and recommended bringing it to the full board for approval. Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the Lease-Purchase Agreement. Strieker seconded the motion.

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

f. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann  
No Report

- g. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker  
No Report
- h. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff
  - 1. Monthly County Engineer’s Report – Dan Behrens  
Behrens said the county took bids on two new dump trucks. The truck that the county bid two years ago is expected to be ready next week. Due to the delay in receiving vehicles, the committee sought bids on two trucks and will pay for one this fiscal year and the second next fiscal year. The low bidder on both trucks was Truck Centers, Inc. of Troy, IL with the single axle Freightliner bid at \$98,409 and the tandem axle \$107,621. These bids are for the trucks and chassis with the beds and hydraulics to be bid separately. .
  - i. Motion to Approve – Resolutions to Approve the Purchase of a New Single Axle Dump Truck and a New Tandem Axle Dump Truck from Truck Centers, Inc. of Troy, IL  
K. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote. Riechman seconded the motion. Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 (Absent).  
Motion Carried 14-0.
  - 2. Behrens reported that letters have been written to the Illinois Department of Transportation seeking improvements to Illinois Route 161 from Germantown through Bartelso and Route 50 from Carlyle east to the county line. He has not received any response from IDOT; however, IDOT has allocated \$5.3 million for the resurfacing of Route 50 from 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Carlyle to McNair Campground Road in its multi-year \ program. There is a second \$10 million project in the multi-year program for the rebuilding/reconstruction of Route 50 from McNair Campground Road to Huey. The multi-year program period runs from 2023 through 2028. The Highway Department will open bids for oil on March 31 for approval by the board in April. While the county did not get any salt this year, they put in for 1,500 ton for next year which has been running around \$100 per ton. Behrens said several years ago the state started its REBUILD Illinois program, and the county received six payments totaling \$1.8 million which must be spent (or under contract) by July 2025. The curves between Aviston and Albers was one project which cost around \$500,000. The county has two bridges that it would like to complete with the remaining funds: a bridge on Huey-Hoffman Road and a bridge south of Albers. The county is still working on a timeline with the state. They plan on resurfacing the roadway from Albers to Interstate 64 next year and hope to have the bridge complete before the resurfacing, if possible.
- i. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen
  - 1. Hilmes said the Personnel Committee met March 14 and approved the minutes. The committee met with Kenny Brown, DVM, for a potential position as the Animal Control administrator. The committee felt that he was very knowledgeable of the position and the duties involved. The Personnel Committee unanimously agreed that the board

chairman should appoint Brown with consent of the full County Board.

j. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that the committee met March 17 to discuss and clarify the agenda for tonight’s meeting. The committee discussed the proposed amendments to the Zoning Filing Fees. B. Knolhoff explained that the zoning fees are being increased to cover administrative costs incurred by the zoning office. Traditionally, the zoning fees have not been adequate to cover these expenses. The proposed fee schedule was reviewed by the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Subdivision Committee as well. The fees have not been increased since 2009. (See new fee schedule attached).

i. Motion – Proposed Amendments to Zoning Schedule of Filing Fees.

Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the filing fees.

Rapien seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 (Absent).

Motion Carried 14-0.

## 10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

No Report

b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman

Riechman said the committee had met Feb. 2 to discuss ongoing issues with financing and staffing the county’s ambulance services. He is waiting to call another meeting until after the April 4 election is finalized since there is a proposition on the ballot to create a separate Special Service Area for ambulance service in Lookingglass Township (excluding the incorporated areas of Albers, Damiansville and New Baden).

c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff

K. Knolhoff reported that a payment of \$157,958.80 was made to Johannes Construction for work completed on the Health Department building through Feb. 24. On March 14, K. Knolhoff and B. Knolhoff were onsite all day as the contractor removed sand and dirt from the corner with unsuitable soils. An engineer was on hand to ensure that the soil base that remained was stable to proceed with pouring the remainder of the basement walls. On March 15, Kuhl observed work as rock was added to the problem area. B. Knolhoff thanked K. Knolhoff and Kuhl for their extra time at the building site.

## 11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel provided the monthly financial report. The new vaccination grant has been approved and is awaiting a signature from IDPH. The county will receive \$150,000 which is earmarked for salaries, but a portion can be used for a vaccine refrigerator at the new Multi-Use Facility.

1. Motion to Approve - Health Department Monthly Report

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

Jansen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

- b. 708 Mental Health Board – Holly Clark  
No Report.
- c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien  
Rapien said the 911 ETSB Board met March 8. The committee spoke extensively about issues with the paging system. If no solution is found in the near future, the committee recommended moving forward with GTSI to consider a temporary paging system until the new radios are operational.
- 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.  
Kuhl said SILEC met March 8 with all new members seated, and the next meeting is May 17.

**12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Heinzmann 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), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent).

Motion Carried 14-0.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- a. Motion – Reappoint Jim Kniepmann- Trustee - Sugar Creek Fire Protection District
- b. Motion – Appoint Don Williams – Trustee - Sugar Creek Fire Protection District
- c. Motion – Reappoint William Guile – Trustee - Hoffman Fire Protection District
- d. Motion – Reappoint Randy Spaeth – Trustee – Aviston Fire Protection District
- e. Motion – Reappoint Jason Brammeier – Trustee – Clinton County East Public Water District
- f. Motion – Reappoint Tracy Schilling – Trustee – Clinton County East Public Water District
- g. Motion – Reappoint Charles Rainey – Trustee – Keyesport Fire Protection District

Rapien made a motion to approve appointments/reappointments “a-g.” Kuhl seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

- h. Motion – Hiring Kenny “Doc” Brown, DVM, as Animal Control Administrator  
B. Knolhoff explained that the board approved amending the structure of the animal control warden salary at its special board meeting on March 9. This allowed for funding a separate animal control administrator. Michaela Becherer will remain animal control warden; however, some of her duties will be handled by Brown, who is a licensed

veterinarian. Knolhoff said there is a lot of responsibility in caring for the animals in the county's custody; and hiring Brown takes a lot of liability off the county.

B. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the hiring of Brown. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 (Absent).

Motion Carried 14-0.

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Riechman recognized the Mater Dei Lady Knights on their recent IHSA Basketball State Championship.
2. Former board member Deb Wesselmann thanked the board for appointing and having faith in Doc Brown to handle the duties of animal control administrator. She said many parts of animal control need to be handled by a veterinarian, and this takes a lot of pressure off the employees.
3. Doc Brown spoke to the board about the duties that he will be taking on. He said he has many years of experience with animal control in multiple states and has many good ideas from his past experience. He said the county is lucky to now have a state-of-the-art facility for animal control.

**18. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023**

Haselhorst made a motion to adjourn until Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers  
County Clerk & Recorder





**CLINTON COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING**  
**March 9, 2023 – 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 special meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on March 9, 2023.

**3. REMOTE ATTENDANCE**

Motion to Approve – Heinzmann made a motion to allow board member Holly Clark to attend the meeting remotely via telephone conference call. Haselhorst seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**4. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Present: Arentsen, Clark, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kuhl, Rakers, Rapien, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Let the record reflect that we have a quorum.

**5. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS**

**6. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD**

a. Luke Baker of Beckemeyer stated that he was glad everyone was present to address the radio issues that have been ongoing for several years. He said his fire district has concern about the cost of the licensing for the new radio upgrade. Once Beckemeyer Fire Department knew that the upgrades were coming, they started upgrading their radios and have completed 9 of 24. His understanding is that the licensing portion is going to be over \$10,000 for Beckemeyer, which he called a “sticker shock.” The department was planning to spend money to buy more radios; however, it will likely only be able to afford the licensing this year.

**7. RADIO**

a. Haselhorst thanked all the first responders in the audience. He said there were two motions on the agenda with one being contingent on the other. B. Knolhoff said the State’s Attorney has reviewed both contracts and some revisions have been made. Motion to Approve – Contract with Tait Communications for New Radio System Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of the Tait contract. Rapien seconded the motion.  
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 15-0.

- b. Motion to Approve – Contract with Mazzitello Professionals, the Consultant for the New Radio System.

Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of the Mazzitello contract. Kuhl seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 15-0.

B. Knolhoff commented that approval of these contracts is a big step for Clinton County, and the board members will continue to address concerns of the emergency personnel throughout the county as they move forward. Riechman acknowledged Haselhorst and the entire Radio Committee for the extreme time and effort that has gone into the radio project.

- c. B. Knolhoff said he forwarded information from Government Capital Finance as an option to finance up to \$5 million for the radio project. The money would be held in escrow through the duration of the project. The rate is somewhat variable but should be under 4 percent. As a reminder, Knolhoff said, this is only an option and there is no expectation that the board proceed with this. The information will be taken under review at this month's Finance Committee meeting. Knolhoff said the hope is that by borrowing the money at a low interest rate, the county can reserve some county funds, and invest the existing funds at a better interest rate than what the county would be paying.

## 8. ZONING

- a. Zoning Administrator Jami Staser gave out information about possible zoning fee increases. Exhibit A included the county's existing Schedule of Filing Fees with items A-F being the Zoning Certificate of Compliance (Building Permit) fees. The schedule also included fees for Special Use Permits, Zoning Map Amendments, Appeals, Variances, and a Late Filing Fee. The schedule states that the fee schedule is not intended to be included as part of the Zoning Code, and it is intended that said fees may be changed from time to time without an amendment to the Zoning Code. Staser said this means that by resolution, the County Board shall establish and may amend from time to time a schedule of filing fees for the various permits and procedures mentioned in the code. The fees are intended to defray the administrative costs connected with the processing and conducting of such procedures. Staser said she would like the board to look at the zoning fees and consider updating them to better cover meeting costs and expenses. Staser said it has been many years since the board has reviewed the fees. The Zoning Board recently compared fees from about 15 other counties. A second handout gave an example of what another county is charging for filing fees for special use permits and zoning map amendments where the fee is based on the amount of acreage with \$300 for the first 10 acres and \$100 for each additional acre (plus the costs of certified mail to adjoining property owners). Clinton County currently charges a flat fee of \$125 (plus the cost of certified mail to adjoining property owners), which is the lowest of the 15 counties in the comparison. She said special use and amendment cases are generally the larger cases handled by the Zoning Board with more administrative expenses. She suggested adjusting fees based on acreage as other counties are doing. She suggested the Finance Committee could review the fee structure and a new

resolution could be drafted by the State’s Attorney. The other fees under review are for commercial solar projects. Staser said that when fees for solar projects were created in 2018, solar was first starting and there were only small solar farms of 2 megawatts consuming about 15 acres. She said the fees that are currently in place were never intended for large commercial solar projects, and these also need to be addressed.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. B. Knolhoff explained that the board would be entering Executive Session to discuss:

- 1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
  
- 11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Riechman made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**10. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

a. Rapien made a motion to return to open session at 8:09 p.m. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**11. ANIMAL CONTROL**

a. Motion to Approve – Ordinance Amending the Structure of the Animal Control Warden Salary.

Kuhl made a motion for a roll call vote to amend the salary. Arentsen seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), 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 15-0

**12. HEALTH BUILDING**

a. Motion to Approve – Change Order Request from Johannes Construction for \$47,215 for Unsuitable Grades, Water Well Infill and an Additional Sump Pump at the Health Department Building. The change order has already been signed by the architect and the contractor.

Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of the change order. K. Knolhoff seconded the motion.

Arentsen (No), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Abstain), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (No), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (No), Veizer (No).  
Motion Carried 10-4 with 1 Abstaining Vote

**13. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023**

- a. Veizer made a motion to adjourn until Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7 p.m.  
Rapien seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers  
County Clerk & Recorder