

**Public Hearing Regarding FY2024 Budget  
November 20, 2023**

The Clinton County Board called a Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. to give the public an opportunity to comment and ask questions about the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget and levies. No one was present to comment on the budget. Motion by Brad Knolhoff and a second by Gary Arentsen to close the hearing at 6:55 p.m. All board members present were in favor.

# CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

November 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 November 20, 2023.

## 3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

## 4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion - Haselhorst made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2023 regular meeting. Veizer 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. Chairman B. Knolhoff recognized Chief Probation Officer Carla Stalnaker who recently completed the UCCI Leadership Academy. The academy focuses on critical thinking, problem solving, communications, self-assessment and change. Knolhoff said it's great to see employees take the initiative to complete these types of programs.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser

Staser said there are two things on the agenda.

- i. Motion – Request from Josh and Lisa Rakers for a Single-Family Dwelling on an Agricultural Lot of 5.19 Acres on Rod & Gun Road in Breese Township. Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the single-family dwelling. Rakers seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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 – Final Plat – 2 Lots – Rakers Farm in Breese Township.  
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the final plat. Jansen seconded the motion.  
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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  
No Report.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
  - 1. Motion – B. Knolhoff said it’s time for renewal of the Worker’s Comp and Liability Insurance Plan. Both premiums are similar to previous years with the Liability plan having a small increase and the Worker’s Comp decreasing slightly.
    - i. Motion - Renewal of Worker’s Comp and Liability Insurance Plans.  
Strieker made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the plan. Rapien seconded the motion.  
Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.
- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen  
No Report.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
  - 1. Motion – Resignation of Michaela Becherer as Animal Control Warden. Her last day of employment was Nov. 10.  
Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
  - 2. Motion – Appointment of Tony Petrea as Full-Time Animal Control Warden.  
B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the appointment. Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
  - 3. Animal Control Administrator Kenny Brown, DVM, spoke about the feral cat problems in the county. Brown said they have received five calls in the past three days related to feral cats, and managing the problem costs the county a great deal of money. He said it’s a problem across the country. This past summer, there was a span of a week when Animal Control took in 128 feral cats. It is a difficult process to find homes for the cats because most rescues will not take feral cats. Animal Control has started hosting low-cost spay and neuter clinics to help with the problem, but they will need to start a program to better manage trapping these animals to reduce the population. Brown said the county handled a positive rabies case involving a bat that had exposed a dog. Fortunately, the dog had been vaccinated. The department intends to issue a public service announcement advising the public on how to deal with any bat encounters. He stressed the importance of vaccinating

animals. Had the dog not been vaccinated, the county would have to impound the animal and observe it for 20-30 days. The owner would then have the choice to either vaccinate the dog or have it euthanized.

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 October was \$21,292. Delinquent tax lists were sent to the newspapers on Friday and will be published in the coming week.

i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

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

ii. Motion – Resolution to Execute Deeds of Conveyance of the County’s Interest for Parcels Auctioned at the Surplus Property Sale on Oct. 6, 2023.

Veizer made a motion for a roll call vote to execute the deeds. Strieker seconded the motion.

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

g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann

1. B. Knolhoff introduced accountant Fred Becker who gave an overview of the FY 2024 budget and levies. Knolhoff thanked Becker for his work on the budget and thanked the department heads for working with the board on the balanced budget. Knolhoff said the county is reducing the total levy amount, which seldom happens. Sometimes taxing bodies will decrease the tax rate due to assessed valuations increasing. This year the county is able to reduce not only the tax rate but also the taxable amount being requested. Knolhoff said that should be celebrated by the taxpayers of Clinton County, and he called it a testament to the work of the board and the work of all elected and appointed officials for staying under budget. Becker said the estimated assessed valuation is projected at \$896,941,072 as compared to last year’s assessed valuation of \$815,400,975. The tax rates that the county is asking for this year for various line items are well under the maximum rates that they could be asking. For instance, the max rate for the General Fund is .27, and the county is requesting .25. The total requested tax rate is .5963 as compared to .6233 last year, and the total levy is \$5,347,500 as compared to \$5,402,064 last year. The total requested by the 15 Special Services Areas for ambulance service is \$949,760 as compared to \$906,571 last year. Knolhoff noted that the county is only approving 15 SSAs this year as compared to 19 in the past since Lookingglass Township and the villages of New Baden, Albers and Damiansville are now levying taxes for ambulance service on their own. The total levy for the county, including SSAs, is \$6,297,260 as compared to \$6,308,635 last year.

- i. Motion – FY2024 Budget and Levies
    - Riechmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the budget and levies. Schroeder seconded the motion.
    - Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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 FY2024 SSA Contracts
    - Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the SSA contracts. Veizer seconded the motion.
    - Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.
- h. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker
- 1. Strieker said the committee met Nov. 14. EMA director Tim Schleper was in attendance and provided an update on the remodeling of the EMA building which is now over 90 percent complete. The committee also discussed the Medical Assistance Recovery Program. Sheriff Travous explained the program is operated through the Department of Public Health and provides medications for inmates undergoing withdrawal from drugs. The medications are normally administered for about 10 days and enable an inmate to deal with the extreme sickness which comes with withdrawal. Administering these medications also reduces the potential for emergency room visits.
- i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff
- 1. Monthly County Engineer’s Report – Dan Behrens
    - Behrens said the resolution to be voted on appropriates funding for maintenance through the Motor Fuel Tax program. This year’s total allotment is \$1.2 million which is \$250,000 more than last year. Behrens also reported that the salt price for this year is \$83.12 per ton and the county projected using 1,500 tons. Per the program rules, the county must purchase 80 percent of that amount and can request 120 percent. Behrens reported that Lookingglass Township had to close a bridge over Sugar Creek on Court Road due to mine subsidence. The east side of the bridge sank about 3 feet and the west side sank about 2.5 feet. He said there are some minor issues with the structure that will require maintenance; however, he does not believe that at this point, it will have to be rebuilt. The county will continue to monitor the bridge to see if any further movement occurs, and IDOT’s bridge office will be involved in a future determination as to when the bridge will be reopened. Exxon Mobile has been involved in the discussion and the county/township will pursue some type of reimbursement for any maintenance expenses.
    - i. Motion – Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code
      - K. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the resolution. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen  
 Hilmes said the committee met Nov. 14. With the increase in inflation, the committee decided to update the ordinance regarding meal reimbursement for any employees who are traveling. He reported that the committee has been working on 8 separate contracts for the Collective Bargaining Units representing county employees. The current contracts expire at the end of November. Hilmes said agreements have been reached with 6 of the 8 groups. He said salary increases were negotiated at rates that were far less than the Consumer Price Index for the past year. He commended the bargaining units that have worked with the board and the county’s taxpayers. There are two contracts still being negotiated, and the committee is meeting with the Sheriff’s Office FOP on Nov. 21 and the Telecommunicators on Nov. 30.
- i. Motion – Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Highway Maintenance  
 Jansen made a motion to approve the CBA. Veizer seconded the motion.  
 Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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 – Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Highway Engineering Technicians  
 Hilmes made a motion to approve the CBA. Schroeder seconded the motion.  
 Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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 – Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with A Body Politic  
 Hilmes made a motion to approve the CBA. Riechmann seconded the motion.  
 Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.
- iv. Motion – Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Circuit Clerk  
 Hilmes made a motion to approve the CBA. Strieker seconded the motion.  
 Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.
- v. Motion – Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Health Department  
 Hilmes made a motion to approve the CBA. Arentsen seconded the motion.  
 Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.
- vi. Motion – Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Sheriff’s PBLC  
 Hilmes made a motion to approve the CBA. Veizer seconded the motion.  
 Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.

- vii. Motion – Resolution to Adjust Travel Expenses Regarding Meal Reimbursement

Riechmann made a motion to approve the Resolution. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried

- k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann

B. Knolhoff said three of the contracts included a proposal to adjust the hours of the courthouse from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Knolhoff said he spoke to courthouse security about traffic flow at the courthouse. They indicated that maybe five people a week come in after 4 p.m.; however, there is often multiple people waiting to come into the courthouse at 8 a.m. Knolhoff said the shifted hours gives the courthouse employees more flexibility while also providing earlier access for residents.

- i. Motion – Change Courthouse Hours to 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. effective Dec. 1, 2023. B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the change. K Knolhoff seconded the motion. Motion Carried

- ii. Motion – Resolution to Approve State’s Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Contract State’s Attorney J.D. Brandmeyer said the Appellate Prosecutor handles cases that are taken to the Appellate Court and conflicts of interest. The annual contract is for \$15,000.

Hilmes made a motion to approve the contract. Rapien seconded the motion. Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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.

## 10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst  
No Report.

- b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman  
No Report.

- c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff

1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met and approved a payment of \$273,208.64 to Johannes Construction. The payment included work on the parking lot, drives and curbs, door systems, acoustical ceilings, painting, insulation and final rough work for mechanical, electrical and plumbing. At that time, the overall project was 70-80 percent complete. A final payment was made to Martin Electric for internet cable. The elevator should be installed next week, and the HVAC system was set on the roof today.

- d. Veterans – Greg Riechman

Riechman said he has been active with the Jim Beasley Veterans Tribute Committee at Kaskaskia College. Aviston American Legion hosted a very successful countywide



Veterans Day Program and Parade on Nov. 11, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Jan. 4.

## **11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

### **a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl**

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel thanked the board for negotiating the contracts and approving the adjustable schedule for clinic hours. He said the Health Department has seen increases in people using the services in the morning hours and revenue through the lab.

#### **1. 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**

Rapien said the committee met Nov. 8 and discussed dispatch training, a 911 outage and issues the county is experiencing with ID Networks.

### **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**

Veizer made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Strieker seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), 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**

### **1. Motion – Appointment of Jacob Endres, Trustee of Carlyle Southwest Water District.**

B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the appointment. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.



**15. NEW BUSINESS**

**16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023**

Riechmann made a motion to adjourn until Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7 p.m. Haselhorst seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers  
County Clerk & Recorder