

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING
October 16, 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 October 16, 2023.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Clark, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Kuhl, Rakers, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Absent: Rapien. 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 September 18, 2023 regular meeting. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. U. of I. Extension – 4-H program representatives spoke to the board about the quality programming offered by 4-H and the positive impact it has had on members' lives. Amanda Voss, Extension's 4-H program coordinator for Clinton County, said investing time in our county's youth can help them to become the next leaders of this community. Also, in attendance and speaking about the benefits of 4-H were Kimberly Wolters, who has been a 4-H leader for 11 years, and Blake Twenhafel and Krista Litteken, longtime members of the 4-H Aviston Aces. Twenhafel said his 4-H experience helped develop his leadership qualities, preparing him for high school and a career in agriculture. Litteken is pursuing a degree in nursing from Kaskaskia College and also spoke about the leadership skills she gained from her 11 years in 4-H.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder
 1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser
Staser said the special use permit for Randel and Denise Pingsterhaus is for a family split to allow their son to build a home on 3 acres. The parent parcel is 72 acres, and the Zoning Board is recommending approval. The Pingsterhaus Subdivision is for the

same 3-acre parcel, and the Subdivision Committee is recommending approval.

- i. Motion – Special Use for Randel and Denise Pingsterhaus for a single family dwelling on a 3-acre lot in Breese Township

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the special use. 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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 14-0.

- ii. Motion – Final Plat – 1 Lot – Pingsterhaus Dairy Subdivision in Breese Township.

Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the final plat. 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 (Absent), 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

Heinzmann said the committee met Oct. 9. Bill Schmalz of Einstein Consulting gave a monthly health insurance update. Total costs are up \$193,761 over the previous year, and medical claims are running about 5 percent over what was estimated. There was some discussion about ways to save money with different carriers, and any decisions will be made at renewal time next May. Expenses to date, without reimbursements, are 17.5 percent over budget. With reimbursements, expenses are 21.4 percent under budget. All other costs were in line with other months. The county received a check from TrueRx for \$4,807.

- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
No Report.

- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder

Schroeder reported that a Rabies Vaccination Clinic was held at the Animal Control Facility on Oct. 14; however, she has not received final numbers from the event.

- 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 September were \$6,597.46.

- i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

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

- ii. Bo Thomas of Glass & Shuffett gave a review of the FY 2022 General Financial Statement Audit as well as the audit for the county's federal grant programs. Thomas said the firm offered a clean opinion meaning that the auditors have determined that the financial statements fairly represent the county's modified cash basis financial position as of the fiscal year end on Nov. 30, 2022. There were no issues with numbers, control or compliance. According to the audit, fixed assets total \$48,313,198 and liabilities equal \$115,550 for a total net position of \$48,197,648. Cash and equivalents are up from \$29 million at the end of FY2021 to nearly \$35 million as of Nov. 30, 2022. Thomas said some of this is due to the receipt of ARPA funding which is now being spent plus the General Fund operated in a surplus. Capital assets increased from about \$11.8 million to about \$13.3 million. About \$540,000 is related to a highway project on Aviston-Albers Road. Some of the costs of the new Multipurpose/Animal Control building were also included. Property taxes are down from a rate of 6.766 to 6.55. Most of the levies are up slightly; however, the IMRF levy was reduced. There were increases in sales tax and income and replacement taxes which is due to inflation and economics. Revenues generated from fees and charges for services has increased. The auditors determined that the county was also in compliance with the federal grant programs, and based on the report, the county maintains a strong financial position.

- g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann
Heinzmann said the committee met Oct. 5 with 13 of the 15 board members in attendance along with accountant Fred Becker. The board members discussed the budget and made some comparisons from previous years. The next meeting will be Nov. 9, with a budget hearing set for 6:45 p.m. on Nov. 20, prior to the regular County Board meeting.

- h. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker
Sheriff Travous gave an update on implementing and learning the department's new computer-aided dispatch system which comes with different apps for the jail and records management. The new in-vehicle cameras and body cameras have been received and are state mandated to be in operation by 2025. Travous was able to pay for the cameras with money that he already had in the budget, and training should begin soon. He anticipates having the cameras operational within the next couple of months. Travous also announced a new Clinton County Sheriff's App, which will allow the department to alert citizens about events such as road closures, severe weather, safety concerns, etc. via an app on their smart phones. The app is available through the Apple store or other similar sites at no cost to users. B. Knolhoff commended the Sheriff's Department for the work they are doing to provide a police presence in the local schools.

- i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff
 - 1. Monthly County Engineer's Report – Dan Behrens
Behrens said the first motion is an agreement for a new roundabout in the city of Breese at the intersection of North Walnut and 12th streets which has been talked about by the city at various meetings. The city is utilizing their federal funding to pay 80 percent with 20 percent being shared by the county and city. The committee felt like these terms were acceptable. The estimate is \$1.3 million, and the county's maximum share, per the

agreement, would be \$150,000. The county would pay half of the estimated \$200,000 engineering costs, and the agreement also outlines a maximum of \$20,000 from the county for right-of-way expenses and \$10,000 for utility relocation, if needed.

- i. Motion – Agreement with the City of Breese for a Roundabout at the Intersection of County Highway 11 (North Walnut Street) and 12th Street.

Strieker made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the agreement. Veizer 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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 14-0.

- ii. Motion – Award the Low Bids for an 11’ Long Dump Truck Bed to Higgs Welding for \$53,123 and a 15’ Long Dump Truck Bed to Higgs Welding for \$57,977.

Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the low bids. Veizer 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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 14-0.

Behrens also reported on the closing of a portion of Meridian Road due to necessary bridge repairs over East Fork Creek. Since Meridian is a county line road, the costs of the repairs will be shared with Marion County. Township bridge funds will be utilized to pay 80 percent of the costs. The county will then be responsible for 55-65 percent of the remaining 20 percent. Marion County has proceeded with plans to get the bridge replaced, and an agreement will come before the board in the next few months. A timeframe for project completion is unknown. Behrens also noted that the Jim Beasley tribute signs to be erected near Kaskaskia College will be put up later this week.

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

1. Hilmes gave an update on the ongoing union contract negotiations. Since early September, the committee has met with six of eight collective bargaining units and a meeting is scheduled with the seventh group. Hilmes said the committee is hoping to get the contracts finalized before the end of November, when the current contracts expire.

- k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that the committee met Oct. 13 and discussed the agenda items. B. Knolhoff gave an update on the county’s history as a member of Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC). By statute, Clinton County has been a member of this regional planning commission for many years, and recently, the group assisted with updates to the county’s Comprehensive Plan. A few years ago, the county started questioning the benefits it was receiving from its annual contribution to SIMAPC. B. Knolhoff said the county could not determine what services were actually being received for the money that was being contributed. In a meeting with SIMAPC’s former executive directors, he could not articulate what

benefits the county was receiving as a member. As a result, the county has not made its annual contribution, ranging around \$12,600-\$12,800, to SIMAPC since 2019. Recently, the former executive director resigned and new executive director was appointed. The SIMAPC Board of Directors is now requesting back pay from the county for the missed contributions. Now, with a new director, the group is getting back on track, B. Knolhoff indicated. SIMAPC has since determined that Clinton County's contribution was actually about \$6,000 more than it should have been, so back pay would amount to a little over \$24,000. The Executive Committee discussed this request and has recommended offering to pay one year of back pay, which would be about \$6,800. The committee also decided to contribute moving forward with the understanding that SIMAPC would provide some kind of update to show the work they are doing to enhance regional development. The county will write a letter informing SIMAPC of their decision and will wait to see if the settlement is accepted. B. Knolhoff said SIMAPC has done good work in the past; however, Clinton County has not seen the benefits of this work. The goal is to have a good relationship with the organization which will benefit all parties in the future.

- i. Motion – Pay One Year of Back Pay to Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission to Cover the County for All of the Back Pay Requested and Contribute Next Year with the Contingency that the Group Performs its Duties as Required.

Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the agreement. Heinzmann 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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 14-0.

B. Knolhoff informed the board that he will be reaching out to various committees to review proposed updates to the County Code. It is anticipated that the new code will be reviewed, updated and accepted by the board by April 2024.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee met Oct. 5. The committee approved the bid for frequency coordination for \$110,000 which is part of the approved budget. Kyle Markus, the county's project manager, provided updates regarding environmental studies at the Trenton tower site, structural analysis for the Corps and Sheriff's Department's tower sites, drilling analysis at the Carlyle tower site and other activities. The committee discussed seeking bids for cellular broadband service companies who could potentially contract with the county to rent space on the towers for a source of revenue.

b. SSA/Ambulance – Greg Riechman

1. Riechman asked State's Attorney J.D. Brandmeyer to update the county on changes to the Special Service Areas for ambulance. Four SSAs, previously managed by the county, will be splitting off and creating their own SSAs. Brandmeyer said he spoke to

the attorney representing the four entities: Lookingglass Township and the villages of Albers, Damiansville and New Baden. Brandmeyer said it is his understanding that the four entities are working on setting up these SSAs including the required truth-in-taxation hearings and tax levy certifications. B. Knolhoff said the county is still waiting to hear back from St. Rose. They currently receive ambulance service from the city of Highland, but they are looking into alternate sources. SSA contracts are generally ratified at the November County Board meeting, so there is a deadline on getting all of these revisions completed.

c. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff

1. K. Knolhoff reported that the committee met and approved a payment of \$319,084.20 to Johannes Construction. The payment included new pavement on the north and south sides of the building, demo of the existing pavement, drywall ceilings and walls, some insulation work as well as electrical, mechanical and plumbing rough ins. The Koerkenmeier Excavating bill came in at \$11,765, which was \$1,242 over their bid; however, they had to add 28 feet of pipe and 6 ton of rock. K. Knolhoff said the elevator is expected to be delivered Friday; painting will start tomorrow; the exterior doors are installed; and most of the concrete work is completed. The Kaskaskia College students finished wiring the basement for Internet services, and they are waiting to work upstairs until some of the other work is completed.

d. Veterans – Greg Riechman

1. Riechman said the Kaskaskia College Veterans Committee is very pleased with the work that the County Board Committee is doing. Aviston American Legion is hosting the Countywide Veterans Day program and parade on Saturday, Nov. 11.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel reported that Illinois House Bill 3428 requires all school districts to maintain a supply of nasal spray NARCAN in a secure location. This was brought to his attention by one of the school districts. The Health Department was able to get the NARCAN for free through a state program and will be distributing to the local school districts.

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

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

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. 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 (Absent), 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, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Haselhorst made a motion to adjourn until Monday, Nov. 20, 2023 with a budget hearing at 6:45 p.m. followed by the regular board meeting at 7 p.m. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder