

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING

September 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 September 16, 2024.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Veizer made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2024 regular meeting. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. Rebecca Kenison, who has been executive director of Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC) since May, spoke about the work that the agency does for the seven-county area of Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington counties. SIMAPC specializes in planning for adequate air and water quality and supply; public utilities distribution systems; storm water and sewage disposal; surface drainage control and flood abatement; integrated air, water, rail and highway transportation; the orderly arrangement of land for residential, commercial, industrial, public and other purposes; local municipal and governmental services; the provision of social services; stimulation of economic development; improvement of environmental quality, urban esthetics and civil design; and more. For Clinton County, SIMAPC has assisted with comprehensive planning, grant writing and administration, hazard mitigation planning, environmental reviews, GIS and letters of support. Kenison expects this list to grow as SIMAPC continues to branch out into different programming. She also offered a review of current and future projects which SIMAPC is supporting in the seven-county area.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser said the Zoning Board met September 4 with 12 cases Presented and two cases on the agenda for board approval.

i. Motion – Map Amendment – Agricultural (A) to Residential (R-2) – Dean Thole – Santa Fe Township.

Staser said the property includes 11.75 acres on the northeast corner of Bartelso and is adjacent to the current village limits and accessible from Weber Drive.

Thole is working with the village to annex the property. While Bartelso does not have zoning, it does have its own subdivision code, and the village board must sign off on the subdivision plan. Thole is proposing 21 lots which would provide an opportunity for residential growth in Bartelso.

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

Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Absent), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Absent), 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 (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0

ii. Motion - Special Use Family Split – Victoria Arentsen – Lookingglass Township

Staser said Victoria's father, Kevin Arentsen, is requesting the family split to allow his daughter to build a single-family home on 6.08 acres. The property is located on Monterey Road, east of Damiansville and south of Albers.

Rapien made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the family split. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Absent), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Absent), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Kuhl (Absent), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Abstain), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 11-0 with one member abstaining.

iii. Staser also offered information about the Zoning Board of Appeals appointments that the board would consider later in the meeting.

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

c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann said the committee did not meet in September but is scheduled to meet on Oct. 14.

d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen No Report.

e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder

1. Schroeder said the animal control warden was injured on the job earlier in the month and underwent surgery last month. He is doing office work and light duty during his recovery.

- f. Finance – David Veizer
 - 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

K. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the report. Hilmes seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
 - ii. Bo Thomas of Glass & Shuffett offered a review of the Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report. He noted that the accounting firm believes the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the county as of Nov. 30, 2023. The accountants did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, and there were no compliance issues. Looking at all county funds, total assets are \$55,710,088. Liabilities, such as the radio tower lease purchase agreement and other obligations, total \$5,482,348. The county’s net position is \$50,227,740. The report offers a breakdown of county expenses and all direct revenue. Thomas said the county’s net position increased about \$2 million over the reporting period. B. Knolhoff congratulated the board and department heads on the work they have done. He noted that any year that the county can increase its net position while lowering the property tax levy is a good year.
- g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann said he has been in contact with accountant Fred Becker and the committee will be meeting prior to the regular board meeting in October.
- 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
 - i. Motion – Award the high bids for: a 2012 International Tandem Dump Truck to Springpoint Township in Shelby County for \$35,000; a 2009 International Single Axle Dump Truck to Calhoun County Highway Department for \$26,500; and a 1990 Ford Digger-Derrick Bucket Truck to Ed Sutter of Shumway, Illinois for \$8,257.25. Behrens said the three trucks are surplus and have already been replaced.

K. Knolhoff made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the three high bids. Rapien seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Absent), Clark (Yes), Haselhorst (Absent), 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 (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0
 - ii. Behrens reported that the contractor has put down hot mix asphalt on the Huey Road Bridge, north of Hoffman. Shoulder stone will be installed tomorrow followed by the railings. Behrens anticipates the bridge being open by early next week. There were some bad piles on a bridge on Shattuc Road in East Fork Township. This spring, the state ordered that the county close the bridge traffic

down to one lane. County crews had to wait to make repairs until the creek bed dried up. The piles have been repaired and both lanes of the bridge are now open. Behrens said the state performed an audit of the bridge inspections which have been done by the county, and so far, there have been no problems with the local reports. Behrens said the state will likely take over the inspections in coming years. Behrens was asked about the status and anticipated completion of the work on Route 161, west of Albers. Behrens said the state does not communicate with him about the project. The last he had heard was a Sept. 15 completion, but that date has already passed. Sheriff Travous said he routinely checks on the progress. He said they are currently paving, and progress is being made, but the completion date is unknown.

- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen
 - 1. Hilmes said the committee did not meet in September, and the next meeting is set for 6 p.m. on Oct. 15.

- k. Executive – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. B. Knolhoff said the committee met September 13 and reviewed the County Board agenda. The Executive Committee voted to bring the liquor license application for The Station in rural New Baden to the full board for approval. Typically, there is a sign-off process by the Sheriff, State’s Attorney and County Board Chairman, as liquor commissioner; however, since the applicant lives outside the county limits, Knolhoff felt that the full board should rule on it. State’s Attorney J.D. Brandmeyer said the county code requires that the applicant, or a designated manager, live within county limits. He said the license is also contingent on a special use permit being approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and that hearing is set for Oct. 2. Knolhoff is seeking the authority from the board to approve the license, contingent on zoning approval. He noted that the applicant already holds another liquor license in the county, and the county has approved licenses in the past for other applicants who reside outside of the county limits.
 - i. Motion – Liquor License Application for The Station contingent on approval of a Special Use Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Riechman made a motion to approve the application pending Zoning Board approval. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst
 - 1. B. Knolhoff said the Emergency Radio System is probably one of the largest projects ever undertaken in Clinton County replacing all emergency communication equipment for police officers, ambulance personnel, firemen, EMS and first responders throughout the county. The new system was projected to be completed by the end of this year, and the project was on target to meet that goal. However, on May 10, a request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) was filed in Circuit Court challenging the placement of a telecommunications tower on property owned by Germantown Township, and the TRO was granted on May 13. Since then, the judge that heard the TRO recused himself and Judge Nathan Frisch, a circuit judge of

Christian County, was assigned to the matter. On July 9, Judge Frisch heard from both parties via a Zoom hearing and listened to arguments for and against a motion to dismiss, which was filed by the State's Attorney Brandmeyer. Frisch gave himself until August 2 to decide and later continued that decision to August 21. To date, there is still no decision, and the county is anxiously awaiting a ruling. Obviously, the delay is detrimental to the radio communication project, Knolhoff Said; however, the county remains committed to this tower site. Knolhoff said the site was selected for several reasons: the communication system is built around this being one of the tower sites; the county was able to partner with another branch of local government with a long-term lease at minimum expense to the taxpayers; and most importantly, the location is tied to extensive engineering and FCC studies. If the county was forced to abandon the site, the project planning would have to start over, and the county is hoping for a favorable decision very soon. Sheriff's Sergeant Kyle Markus explained the many issues that emergency personnel deal with daily, stating that it's a safety issue for the officers and the public. He shared seven calls from the past four days in which officers had communication problems. Sheriff Travous said the emergency radio system has been an issue since he started 29 years ago and communication continues to get worse. He noted that it could be a matter of life or death for officers and members of the public involved in emergency situations. Clark asked about the county's recourse with the judge if the case continues to be drug out. Knolhoff said, unfortunately, the county is at the court's mercy. Without this lawsuit and TRO, Knolhoff said the county would be close to having the radio system operational.

b. Health Building – Ken Knolhoff
No Report.

c. Veterans – Greg Riechman

1. Riechman said the committee met August 15. He reported on a wonderful send-off event on August 26 for local veterans who have, or will be, traveling to Washington D.C. on Honor Flights.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Mike Kuhl

1. Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said there was no board meeting in August, and the next meeting is set for Sept. 17.
 - i. Motion – Health Department Monthly Report
Strieker made a motion to approve the monthly report. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. 708 Mental Health Board – Holly Clark

1. Clark said the board met and reviewed its three- and five-year strategic plans and set meeting dates for next year. The next meeting is Dec. 12.

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
No Report.

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

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

Motion Carried 12-0

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. B. Knolhoff said there are four appointments involving people who are already involved with the Zoning Board of Appeals. B. Kolhoff thanked Dave Timmermann for his many years as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and expressed his support of Brian Krausz being named the new chairman.
 - 1. Motion – Appoint David Timmermann and Gary Knolhoff as alternate members and Rob Gerstenecker as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Rakers made a motion to approve the appointments. Riechman seconded the motion.
Motion carried.
 - 2. Motion – Appoint Brian Krausz – Chairman – Zoning Board of Appeals
Schroeder made a motion to approve Krausz as chairman. Rakers seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - 3. Motion – Appoint Floyd Trame – Trustee – Santa Fe Fire District
Jansen made a motion to approve the appointment. Veizer seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

Rapien made a motion to adjourn until Monday, October 21, 2024 at 7 p.m. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder