

MINUTES OF THE MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD

January 20, 2021

The monthly meeting of the McDonough County Board was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, and Via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. roll call resulted in 21 present, and 0 absent. Sheriff Nick Petitgout made the opening declaration. Chair Schwerer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXHIBIT 1

Board Member McGrew moved with a second by Board Member Litchfield to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 absent and 0 pass.

EXHIBIT 2

The report from Public Defender, Stephanie Hilton for the month of December, 2020 was received and filed.

EXHIBIT 3

The report of Sales Tax collected in October, 2020 was received and filed. County Sales Tax, Public Safety tax, and Transportation Tax were all down from the previous month.

EXHIBIT 4

The report of Balances and Investments from County Treasurer Graves for the month of December, 2020 was received and filed.

EXHIBIT 5

The report of Circuit Clerk Wilson for the month of December, 2020 was received and filed.

EXHIBIT 6

The report from County Clerk DeJaynes on Warrants Issued in Vacation for the month of December, 2020 was received and filed.

EXHIBIT 7

The Transfer of Appropriations of Monies was referred to the Finance Committee. County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes reported the finance committee did not transfer any funds.

EXHIBIT 8

Board Member Aurelio moved with a second by Board Member Foster to approve the report of the Finance Committee as read. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 absent and 0 pass as **Exhibit 8A**.

EXHIBIT 9

Board Member Nissen moved with a second by Board Member McLean to dispense with the reading of the claims report and to approve it as approved by the Claims Committee. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 absent and 0 pass as **Exhibit 9A**.

EXHIBIT 10

Board Member Clark moved with a second by Board Member Cox to approve the MTC Communications Inc. Contract. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 absent and 0 pass as **Exhibit 10A.**

EXHIBIT 11

Board Member Litchfield moved with a second by Board Member Chapman to approve the IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Resolution. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 absent and 0 pass as **Exhibit 11A.**

EXHIBIT 12

Board Member McLean moved with a second by Board Member Nissen to approve the Extension of the Proclamation to Declare McDonough County a Disaster until 2/19/21. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 21 yeas, 0 absent and 0 pass as **Exhibit 12A.**

EXHIBIT 13

None

EXHIBIT 14

Board Member Terra Litchfield gave a report regarding the Health Department and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Patrick Stout stated he feels the public should wait to receive the vaccine until there is enough vaccines to give the shots.

Board Member Joe Erlandson informed the Board that he has been reviewing the Wind Farm Ordinance.

EXHIBIT 15

None.

EXHIBIT 16

Board Member Aurelio moved with a second by Board Member Foster to Adjourn. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote of 21 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent. **16A.**

ELMS/BUILDING & GROUNDS

January 12, 2021

The Elms/Building and Grounds Committee met on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201, and Via Zoom. Committee Members in attendance included, Chair Aurelio, Vice Chair Terra Lithchfield, Dave Cortelyou Via Zoom, Mike Cox, Cindi Helling, Travis Hiel, Deckle McLean, and Marcia Twaddle Via Zoom. Others in attendance included Tom Lowe, County Board Chair Scott Schwerer, Elms Administrator Tim Bledsoe, Patrick Stout, Stacey Alexander, and County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes.

Chair Larry Aurelio called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant and 0 absent.

Review and Approval of December 15, 2020 Minutes

Member Litchfield moved with a second by Member Helling to approve the minutes with a correction. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant and 0 absent.

Farm Report

County Chair Schwerer informed the Committee that it is icy out there.

Administrator's Report

Elms Administrator Tim Bledsoe gave the report. Census is at 50, with 9 being Medicare A, 0 Medicare B, 10 private pay, 1 Hospice Private, 0 Hospice Medicaid, 29 Medicaid. and ADC 45. Medicaid owes \$55,112.31 and Medicare owes \$669,676.93. In December they admitted 13 new residents and discharged 8.

Member Cox inquired about visiting stipulations when they open back up, and if a visitor would need a COVID vaccination. Bledsoe said they would not require a vaccination; they would just take your temperature and a series of questions.

Bledsoe proposed a one- time bonus for all current staff that have been working at the Elms for at least six months as of July 1, 2020. The proposed bonus will have three tiers of payment amounts. He said the Elms would be responsible for the entire cost to include the bonus, taxes, workman's compensation, and IMRF payments. The total cost for this would be \$200,000.00. Member Litchfield inquired as to why they are receiving the bonus, Bledsoe said it was due to the actions taken by the staff during the COVID outbreak. Member Cortelyou inquired about the cost, if any other department asked to do this, and if this should be taken to the Finance Committee or to Full Board. Member Hiel said as long as it does not come out of County General it does not need to go any further than here.

A motion was made by Member Cox with a second by Member McLean to Approve Hazard Pay Bonus for employees. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Financial Report

Member Litchfield moved with a second by Member Hiel to approve the December 2020 Financial Reports. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant and 0 absent.

Elms Claims

Member Cox moved with a second by Member McLean to approve the Elm's claims as submitted. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant and 1 absent.

Macomb Public Building Commission

Member Mike Cox will be replacing former Board Member Bob Mahr. Chair Schwerer stated that the sidewalks around the jail will be inspected this month.

McDonough County Maintenance Directors Report

Maintenance Supervisor Tom Lowe Introduced himself to the Committee Members. Lowe said he has been working on cleaning up and organizing the office.

Building and Grounds Claims

Member McLean moved with a second by Member Hiel to approve the December Building and Grounds Claims. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant, and 0 absent.

Other

County Board Chair Comments

County Chair Scott Schwerer Informed the Committee that the Health Department has started vaccinating for COVID 19 and that it is a slow process.

Adjourn

Member Cox moved with a second by Member Hiel to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

ESDA & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

January 19, 2021

The ESDA & Claims Committee held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201 and Via Zoom. Committee Members present were Chair Dave Nissen, Vice Chair Julie Melvin, Larry Aurelio, Letha Clark, Ken Durkin, Joe Erlandson, Craig Foster- Via Zoom, and Dick Marcott. Also present was ESDA Director Edgar Rodriguez, Patrick Stout- Via Zoom, County Board Chair Scott Schwerer, and County Clerk DeJaynes.

Chair Nissen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Approval of December 15, 2020 Minutes

Member Aurelio moved with a second by Member Melvin to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

ESDA Director Report

Director Edgar Rodriguez gave the report. Ben Thompson gave an update on when vaccines would be available, and on the current COVID-19 status for McDonough County. Current positive cases have increased by 19%, negative cases increased by 14%, Recovered increased by 21%, and Death increased by 7%.

Approval of Committee Claims

Member Marcott moved with a second by Member Clark, to approve the Committee claims as submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Approval of Board Claims

Member Joe Erlandson moved with a second by Member Aurelio, to approve the Board claims as submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Other

None

County Board Chair Comments

None

Adjourn

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Aurelio to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
January 13, 2021

The monthly Finance Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201. Committee members present were Chair Travis Hiel, Vice Chair Larry Aurelio, Letha Clark, Dave Cortelyou- Zoom, Mike Cox-Zoom, Joe Erlandson, and Dave Nissen. Others in attendance included Patrick Stout- Zoom, Public Defender Stephanie Hilton, Stacey Alexander, County Chair Scott Schwerer, and County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes.

Chair Hiel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Review and Approve Minutes from December 9, 2020

Member Nissen moved with a second by Vice Chair Aurelio to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent

MCPT Report Review & Approval

The monthly request for December 2020 was reviewed. Vice Chair Aurelio moved with a second by Member Clark to approve the MCPT Report in the amount of \$1,092.00 for December, 2020. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent

Bushnell Senior Meals Report Review & Approval

The monthly report for December 2020 from the YMCA for transportation of senior meals was reviewed. Vice Chair Aurelio moved with a second by Member Nissen to approved the December 2020 YMCA invoice in the amount of \$498.02.

Vice Chair Aurelio moved with a second by Member Nissen to amend the amount of \$498.02, to the correct amount of \$1,153.27. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Motions were carried with a Roll Call Vote with 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent.

Coroner Report

The monthly Coroner Report was received and filed.

Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly Financial Reports were received and filed. County Clerk DeJaynes informed the Committee that she has received CURES money for Public Safety.

Transfer of Funds

None

Warrants Issued in Vacation

Vice Chair Aurelio moved with a second by Member Clark to approve the Warrants Issued in Vacation. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent

Stephanie Hilton – Public Defender

A discussion was held regarding pay for her Assistant Attorney's.

Health Department Payroll Issue

A lengthy discussion was held regarding a bonus that was issued to all Health Department Employees.

MTC Communications Inc. Contract

A discussion was held regarding the MTC Contract.

Member Clark moved with a second by Vice Chair Aurelio to send the MTC Contract to Full Board. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent

Approval of Claims

Member Erlandson moved with a second by Member Nissen to approve the Claims as submitted. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent

Executive Session

None.

Other

None.

County Board Chair Comments

County Chair Schwerer informed the Committee that the positive rating for COVID is down to 4%, but there was 19 new cases today.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Aurelio moved with a second by Member Clark to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Motion Carried on a Roll Call Vote With 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 0 absent

Human Resources and Planning Committee

January 14, 2021

The Human Resources and Planning Committee met on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201. Committee Members in attendance included Chair Letha Clark, Vice Chair Deckle McLean, George Dixon-Zoom, Cindi Helling-Zoom, Michael Kirby, Rod McGrew-Zoom, and Dave Nissen. Member Marsha Twaddle was absent. Others in attendance included County Chair Scott Schwerer, Patrick Stout, Bonnie Scripps, Gayle Carper-Zoom, Karen Blakely, Zach Welch, County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes, and Committee Secretary Stacey Alexander.

Chair Letha Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass and 1 absent.

Review and Approve Minutes from December 10, 2020

Member McLean moved with a second by Member Kirby to approve the minutes with correction. Motion carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass and 1 absent.

Animal Control Report

Zach Welch gave the report. The total number of dogs in the shelter at the end of December was 4 and there were 12 cats. A discussion was held regarding improvements made to the shelter and future improvements.

Humane Society-Memorandum of Understanding

A large discussion was held regarding the potential new Animal Shelter. Financial aspects were discussed along with changes to the Memorandum Of Understanding, and ownership of the ground and building. Chair Clark will continue this to the February meeting and asked all members to be at the meeting I person.

Policies & Procedures

None

GIS Update

No report.

Claims

Member Dixon inquired about a name on one of the claims, Chair Clark said it was an error. Member Kirby moved with a second by Member McLean to approve claims as submitted. Motion carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass and 1 absent.

Other

Patrick Stout told the Committee that this has been the most interesting he has attended in 32 years.

County Board Chair Comments

None.

Adjourn

Member McGrew moved with a second by Member Helling to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Motion carried with a Roll Call Vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass and 1 absent.

LAW & LEGAL
January 4, 2021

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, January 4th, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, Courtroom 201, and via zoom. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Lee Calvert-zoom, Eric Chapman, Travis Hiel, Michael Kirby, Terra Litchfield, Julie Melvin. Other persons in attendance were County Chair Scott Schwerer, Committee Secretary Stacey Alexander, Ric Smart, and Oliver Ellen with RWE. Other persons in attendance via zoom were Patrick Stout, Bill Burns, Bobbie, Angel, Morrow, John Huston, Heather McMeekan, Joanne Curtis, Chief Deputy Adam Cremer, and Sam with the Social Justice Coalition.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant, and 0 absent.

Review & Approve December 14, 2020 Minutes

Member Chapman moved with a second by Member Durkin to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, 0 vacant, and 0 absent.

Waste Management Update

Report received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

No report.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

Ric Smart gave the report. Six Veterans were given assistance in December. Total assistance amounted to \$1,451.67. County Chair Schwerer informed the Committee that Board Member Ken Durkin will be replacing Paul Trimmer on the Veterans Assistance Committee.

Sheriff's Report

Chief Deputy Adam Cremer gave the report. He stated they are still waiting on the arrival of the new cars. Member Kirby inquired on information he requested last month, Chief Deputy Cremer stated he will be getting that to him.

Assessor's Office Update

No report.

Review/Discuss McDonough County Wind Farm Ordinance

Chair Erlandson discussed the original Wind Farm Ordinance, what the setback distance is between the turbines and homes, and how to tell if the turbines are having a flickering effect. Oliver Ellen with RWE informed the Committee that there is going to be a study done regarding flickering and sound from the turbines, and that construction is set to start in 2024. Chair Erlandson said that he would like to see something in the new ordinance regarding the flickering effect and sound from the turbines.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Hiel moved with a second by Member Litchfield to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

Other

None

Executive Session

None

Public Comment

Heather McMeekan spoke.

County Board Chair Comments

County Chair Schwerer advised the Committee that the MTC contract will be at the County Board Meeting.

Adjourn

Member Hiel moved with a second by Member Melvin to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE

January 7, 2021

The McDonough County Road and Bridge Committee held their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. Committee Members present included Chair Dave Cortelyou, Vice Chair Mike Cox, Lee Calvert, Eric Chapman, , Craig Foster, Rod McGrew, and Dick Marcott. Member George Dixon was absent. Other persons in attendance: Dave Cadwalader, Engineer Rick Walker, Patrick Stout, Scott Hance, Terra Litchfield, Bruce Biagini, County Chair Scott Schwerer, and County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes.

Chair Dave Cortelyou called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 absent.

Review Minutes from December 3, 2020

Member McGrew moved with a second by Member Foster to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 absent.

New Business

Engineer Rick Walker discussed staffing information. Engineer Walker informed the Committee that they are finishing up Budget paperwork, and that most Townships are using their RBI funds. Engineer Walker gave an update regarding various projects they are working on.

Project Update

He informed the committee that truck 13 received a new bed, a new truck is still in the process of being fabricated, and that truck #2 will need replaced soon due to mechanical issues. He has received two bids for a new truck, one from the State for \$32,293.00 and the other from Woodrum's for \$32,176.00.

Member Foster moved with a second by Member McGrew to purchase the truck from Woodrum's for no more than \$34,176.70. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 pass and 1 absent.

IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Resolution

Member Marcott moved with a second by Member Chapman to approve the IDOT Motor Fuel Tax Resolution. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 1 absent.

County Credit Card

A discussion was held for the Highway Department to acquire a credit card for the Highway Department office to be used for Office Supplies and various bills. Engineer Walker requested to send this to the Finance Committee for approval.

Member Cox moved with a second by Member Foster to send the Credit Card request to the Finance Committee for approval. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 1 absent.

December Work Report

Report given by Dave Cadwalader.

Claims

Member Foster moved with a second by Member Marcott to approve the claims submitted. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 5 yeas, 0 nays, 2 pass and 1 absent.

Other Business

None.

Public Comments

Board Member Litchfield inquired as to what RBI Funds are. Engineer Walker explained that it is a fund to rebuild Illinois and that it is a State Fund. Litchfield then asked what the timeline is for a final total regarding the MFT money.

County Chair Comments

County Chair Schwerer informed the Committee that he has contacted IDOT to have Anna Ghidina give a report on HWY 336 and Colchester Dollar General intersection. He also said that the southern part of the County's rural water has been out and they are working very hard to resolve it.

Adjourn

Member Cox moved with a second by Member McGrew to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried on a Roll Call vote with 7 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 1 absent.