

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
AT A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY
ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN
TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS ON **December 20, 2022**
ATTEST: JODIE L. BADMAN, COUNTY CLERK

The following proceeding had and entered at large upon the records of said Board, which is done accordingly in the following words and figures to wit;

Chairman Bryan Sharp called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Venise McWard led the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was held on the second floor of the courthouse in the County Board Room.

ROLL CALL

The roll call by County Clerk Jodie Badman showed all members present with Ken Franklin and Matt Wells being absent. A quorum was had to hold the meeting.

RESIGNATION

Chairman Bryan Sharp notified the board of the resignation of Matthew Wells, effective December 17, 2022. Chairman Sharp thanked Mr. Wells for his service.

Discussion was had by Chairman Sharp to the Board on advice he sought for a replacement. Chairman Sharp then asked State's Attorney, John McWard, to present the statute for replacing board members. McWard stated that according to the statute, the Chairman has authority to pick a replacement and that replacement is to be within sixty days of the resignation receipt. A majority of the full board will then need to approve the replacement.

APPROVE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Bryan Sharp asked for any corrections and to accept the November 15, 2022 County Board minutes. Chairman Sharp called for a motion to approve the minutes. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Linda Curtin. Motion carried with (14) ayes; (0) nay.*

Chairman Sharp asked for any corrections and to accept the December 5, 2022 Re-Organizational County Board minutes. He called for a motion to approve the minutes. *Timothy Carlson made a motion to approve and was seconded by Thomas Snyder, Jr.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Sharp asked if there was any comments from the public.

Colerain Evans addressed the board about agenda item HB5855. He stated that he thought Christian County had made public in the past that they were pro 2nd Amendment or a Firearms Sanctuary County. He would like to see discussion tonight about a reaffirmation that we are a Firearms Sanctuary.

Chairman Sharp asked if there were any more comments from the public.

Mike Specha stated that he decided to take a turn and speak in the public comment section about being a voice concerning the conducting of meetings with all sixteen members involved. Transparency is a term that is loosely thrown around and the Re-Organizational meeting two weeks ago did not get off to a very good start. Through personal conversation, I know that at least eight of the sixteen members did not know in advance or were not contacted about who was about to be nominated for Chair. I was one of the eight. We were unaware of any names that were going to be considered and two minutes after the nomination, we were expected to vote on someone for the next two years. Following, we were given committee assignments that were already prearranged. Speaking for myself, I would have thought I would have discussed my committee assignments in advance, which seems to be the minimum courtesy given to every elected member of this board. My issue is not with the person elected, it is with the process it was followed. We may not have technically broken any board rules but it was anything but transparent. It is my intention to spend my time as a board member doing everything I can to make sure in the future all sixteen of us are allowed an equal opportunity to participate with full knowledge in advance in order to make informed decisions. I did not intend to do that tonight, to stay quiet, but it is my intention to propose adjustments to our board rule in the very near future for equal opportunity and full participation for every board member.

Chairman Sharp asked if there were any more comments from the public.

Phil Cook addressed the board on his opposition to HB5855. This bill is blatantly a violation of my constitutional rights. And personally, myself, I am getting sick and tired of having to jump through hoops every time that we have a tragedy here in Illinois and they want to pass more gun laws if they don't enforce the ones they have now. I saw an article in the paper this morning where Danville police made nine firearms violation arrests over the weekend. Eight of the charges, eight of the people they picked up had no valid FOID card. You can pass as many gun laws as you want to in the State, but it impacts nobody but legal gun owners. Because criminals do not care at all what laws you pass. And if this law goes through and government is going to spend the paper, you're going to make me a felon overnight and I am tired of it. Every time you turn around it's you know you have to register your gun. I am registered with guns and there is no grandfathering, I guess you'll have to get rid of them. So I would like to see Christian County do what Iroquois County has already done and they have made a declaration that they will not enforce any part of HB5855, pass this today. I have lived in Illinois all my life but if they keep it up, I am going to be leaving, I going out of state. Every time you turn around, they are trying to take our guns and I'm tired of it.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER CLAIMS

Chairman Sharp entertained a motion to pay the claims. *Venise McWard made a motion and Thomas Snyder, Jr. seconded.*

A roll call vote called upon the following: Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Seth Foster, Vicki McMahan, Venise McWard, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenbergh and Clayton Walter: ayes (14), nay (0). Ken Franklin; absent. Motioned carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Sharp stated to the board that he would like to appoint Jim Overholt to the ZBA. He asked for a motion to approve Jim Overholt to the ZBA as well as approve him to be Chairman of the ZBA. *Vicki McMahan made the motion and it was seconded by Dave Puccetti.*

Motion carried with (14) ayes ;(0) nay.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OR PROCLAMATIONS

a. R2022 CB 031

- i. Resolution which the county board hereby agrees to participate in the service program of the Office of the States Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, Commencing December 1, 2022 and ending November 30, 2023 and hereby appropriating the sum of \$14,000.00 as consideration for the express purpose of providing a portion of the funds required for financing the operations of the Office of the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, and agrees to deliver the same to the office of the state’s attorneys appellate prosecutor on request during the stated twelve month period.

Chairman Sharp called for a motion to approve. *Clint Epley made the motion and Jean Vandenberg seconded.*

A roll call vote being called for polled the following: Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Seth Foster, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles and Timothy Carlson— ayes (14); nay (0); The motion carried.

b. R2022 TR 030 – No action taken as this is a duplicate to R2023 TR 001.

c. R2023 TR 001

- ii. Authorizes the chair to execute a deed of conveyance of the county’s interest in described property.

Chairman Sharp called for a motion to approve. *Thomas Snyder, Jr. made the motion and Venise McWard seconded.*

A roll call vote being called for polled the following: Clint Epley, Seth Foster, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson and Linda Curtin, — ayes (14); nay (0); The motion carried.

d. R2023 TR 002

- iii. Authorizes the chair to execute a deed of conveyance of the county’s interest in described property.

Chairman Sharp called for a motion to approve. *Vicki McMahon made the motion and Linda Curtin seconded.*

A roll call vote being called for polled the following: Seth Foster, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley, — ayes (14); nay (0); The motion carried.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

DECEMBER 2022 COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were presented and placed on file in the Clerk's Office.

1. December 2022 Prevailing Wage Report
2. The November 2022 Public Defender's Report
3. The Treasurer's Reports for period ending November 30, 2022
4. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for November 2022
5. The Treasurer's ARPA Balance and Expenditure Report for November 2022
6. ROE – Expenditure Report for November 2022
7. The November 2022 Zoning Report

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS/OTHER

- **State's Attorney Budget** – State's Attorney John McWard spoke to the board about defining the budget left by his predecessor of \$131,000 for two Assistant State's Attorneys. He feels that it is difficult to find qualified individuals to fulfill the positions. He is asking the board approval to hire two individuals but split the salaries differently than what it was budgeted. He feels an attractive salary will get a more qualified candidate. He stated that the Chief Judge of the 4th District made him aware that he will have to go outside of our county to prosecute cases because of a conflict of interest in the cases he had before becoming the State's Attorney in December. In return, the Fayette County State's Attorney will be coming to Christian County to prosecute State's Attorney McWard cases that he has a conflict of interest. He then asked the board for approval of a 3-6 month exemption of the county residency ordinance for the potential candidate he has made offer to for Assistant State's Attorney.

Chairman Sharp asked for a motion to be made for our State's Attorney to offer to one candidate a salary of up to \$131,000 and to grant an extension to the residency for up to 6 months. Vicki McMahon made a motion and Jeff Nolen seconded.

Discussion was heard from Mike Specha about the need to make a motion. Betty Asmussen explained that the budget amount is set with different salaries for two assistants and this is just a courtesy.

A roll call vote being called for polled the following: Seth Foster, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley, —ayes (14); nay (0); The motion carried.

- **2023 Diesel and Gasoline Bids** – Cliff Frye presented the one bid received from Central Commodity FS to the board.

Chairman Sharp asked for a motion to be to accept the bid from Central Commodities FS for the 2023 Fiscal Year. David Puccetti made a motion and Thomas Snyder, Jr. seconded.

A roll call vote being called for polled the following: Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley & Seth Foster, —ayes (14); nay (0); The motion carried.

- **Residency Exemption – Highway Department/Snow Plow Driver(s)** – Cliff Frye spoke to the board about last month’s approved Snow Bird drivers. He would like the board to raise the residency requirement for these positions as he has qualified applicants that live just across county line that are interested in position.
Chairman Sharp asked for a motion to raise the residency requirements. Jeff Nolen made a motion and Clint Epley seconded.
With (14) ayes and (0) nay, the motion carried.
- **Carbon Capture and Storage Ordinance and Moratorium Update** – John McWard spoke on some updates. There had been an omission to the ordinance that needed addressed. He had spoken to the Montgomery County State’s Attorney about the process we are going through about the ordinance 2022 CB 022. There is a specific statute that needs referenced and this ordinance needs amended. He will also meet with the Montgomery County State’s Attorney and possibly put together a draft to submit to the board. Blake Tarr inquired what the omission was and SA McWard stated it was missing legal statute wording and that needed amended. Venise McWard posed the question to State’s Attorney McWard if his recommendation was to just amend. SA John McWard stated yes, but the six months was up on the moratorium. Bryan Sharp informed SA John McWard that they had passed an extension on that moratorium within the last month or so. John McWard advised that an amendment should be placed. Vicki McMahan questioned if the board should send to the executive committee for approval. SA John McWard stated he thought that would be necessary.
Chairman Sharp asked for a motion to amend O2022 CB 022. Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion and Clint Epley seconded.
Point of order by Mike Specha was made asking that it should be brought back to executive committee for approval. Discussion led to taking a vote to change and not send.
With (14) ayes and (0) nay, the motion carried.
- **Moratorium on Wind Ordinance Update** – John McWard is working with this ordinance as well and will report to the board.
- **HB5855** – Chairman Sharp stated that this bill is definitely an infringement upon the 2nd Amendment rights and several counties have been drafting resolutions in opposition to this bill. A sample copy of the resolution from Iroquois County was handed out to board members to look over. State’s Attorney McWard prepared a resolution similar to the one from Iroquois County for the board, R2022 CB 032.
After reviewing, the Thomas Snyder, Jr. made a motion to sign resolution R2022 CB 032 and to mail within the week. Vicki McMahan seconded the motion.
The signed resolution will be mailed by County Clerk, Jodie Badman.
With (14) ayes and (0) nay, the motion carried.

2023 County Board Meeting Dates – *Chairman Sharp called for a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates. Timothy Carlson made the motion and Thomas Snyder, Jr. seconded. With (14) ayes and (0) nay, the motion carried.*

The dates are as follows:

Tuesday, January 17, 2023
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Tuesday, August 15, 2023
Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Tuesday, December 19, 2023

- **Clarify County’s Negotiating Team AFSCME** – Point of clarification from last month’s meeting. Chairman Sharp stated that the board had set up a negotiations team involving Matt Wells, Venise McWard, Craig Corzine, Betty Asmussen and Liz Hile. We need to update the negotiating team.

MILEAGE AND PER DIEM REPORT – December 20, 2022

Chairman Sharp called for a motion from the floor to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report.

A motion was made by Venise McWard and seconded by Vicki McMahan to approve the mileage and per diem report.

A roll call vote being called for polled the following:, Jeffrey Nolen, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha, Jean Vandenberg, Clayton Walter, David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Seth Foster, Vicki McMahan & Venise McWard —ayes (14); nay (0); The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sharp called for a motion from the floor to adjourn until January 17, 2023.

A motion was made by David Puccetti and seconded by David Buckles to adjourn until the next meeting on January 17, 2023. With (14) ayes and (0) nay, the motion carried.