

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY ILLINOIS, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CHRISTIAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN TAYLORVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON **June 29, 2021**

*ATTEST: JACQUE S. WILLISON, COUNTY CLERK*

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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 Matt Wells called the board to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call by County Clerk Jacque Willison showing all members present except Craig Corzine, Dale Livingston and Gene Price.

**PLEDGE OF ALLGEINCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Wells called for public comments. There were no public comments.

**BUSINESS**

Bids for the 21.71 acres. Bid notice said the 3 highest bidders had the right to raise their bids until they are done raising. That’s the three highest bidders. In the event the third place is a tie everybody in third place, first place and second place has the right to raise their bids. I doubt if that happens but in case it does I don’t want a problem.

- First bid** – James L. Ryan, Sr - \$13,000.00
- Second Bid** – James L. Ryan, Sr - \$11,000.00
- Third Bid** - Matt Rogers - \$23,500.00
- Fourth Bid** – Jacob Nash - \$15,000.00
- Fifth Bid** – Richard W. Reed - \$14,900.00
- Sixth Bid** – Kacy B. Reiss - \$34,800.00
- Seventh Bid** – David Schmitz - \$34,500.00
- Eighth Bid** – Bruce Kettlekamp - \$35,200.00

Our three highest bids should be; Kacy Reiss, David Schmitz, and Bruce Kettlekamp. Any of you gentlemen here? I do see Mr. Kettlekamp is here. Are either of the other two here? No one else is here, Mr. Reiss and Mr. Schmitz are not here. They do not wish to raise their bid I’m guessing because they did not attend. Sheriff, do you wish to raise your bid? Sheriff stated no he would stick with what he has. No one wants to raise the bid, the high bid is Bruce Kettlekamp \$35,200.00. We have given an opportunity to the top three bidders to raise their bid and no one has. Next item on the agenda is to approve or reject the bid of the 21.71 acres of property located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 12, North, and Range 2 West.

Chairman Wells called for a motion to accept this bid of \$35,200.00. *Ray Koonce made a motion, Vicki McMahon second the motion.* There was no discussion.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.

Rules is you have until the close of business Thursday to put 10 percent down. We will talk with you and figure how you want the deed and get it taken care of.

Chairman Wells stated the ground I want the board to know next I was going to move to the 4 acres in Moweaqua but discovered another 7.4 acres in between Bulpitt and Edinburg. Cliff Frye doesn't know anything about it. It was there before he came to the County. There are some oil tanks. I don't understand it but we are going to do some investigating and get back with the board.

### **ORDINANCES**

Chairman Wells stated he had to add a couple items to this list because we ran into a couple situations. Last month's meeting we agreed to pay Bellwether \$10,000 for each disbursement of this \$6,000,000 as a consulting fee. Should have done that in an ordinance. Ordinance 02021CB016 on the agenda and that is what that is about. It is paying Bellwether \$20,000. - \$10,000 per distribution and we need to do it by Ordinance.

Chairman Wells called for a motion to pass Ordinance 02021CB016. *Venise McWard made a motion and Ken Franklin second the motion.* There was no discussion.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.

Last item on the list outside of me reminding everyone the Farmer's breakfast they have asked to use the courthouse lawn on July 10, 2021. They asked after the last board meeting and before the July board meeting. Unless someone calls and tells me to don't do it. The sheriff nor I have an issue with the farmers' breakfast being on the courthouse lawn on July 10, 2021.

### **ARPA Funds and First Interim Report**

Everyone has a copy of this report in front of them. Chairman Wells spoke with several board members before the meeting. Dealing with how this money is going to be spent. There are some 19 items listed some have money set aside. Chairman Wells was asked to basically make a list of priorities. This is an outline only. Where it says for example we are going to spend \$800,000 for cybersecurity – this will come back to the board for approval. This is an outline to send to our consultant for them to look at and to say we can do it or not do it. That's why everything else is left at the bottom. Someone had to and as chairman I listed things in a prioritized order.

- Items 1 and 2 - is money we have already spent which I believe we are entitled to take out of this to put back into the general fund.

Chairman Wells called for a motion to approve the fees \$20,000 to Bellwether and CTI for Cybersecurity one time set up fee and laptop - \$6,450.63 to be put back into the general fund. *Ray Koonce made a motion and Mike Specha second the motion.* After some discussion on the items being an outline and not set in stone. Chairman Wells stated we are finding out whether we can spend this money this way without the county having to reimburse the federal government. That's what this is about. The consultants want an outline. They need to know but these first two items those numbers could be right on because the money we have spent for cyber security is in.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.

- **Items 3 and 4** – (Grant Administration salary and COVID mitigation response) this is money we have not spent yet. This money can be taken from the grant and put back into the general fund. Those two items are the Grant Administration. Basically Betty has done and will do lots of work on this. Liz and I have spent the past two days on this. We will figure out how much of our salaries, Jody and anybody else involved, how much of our salaries we feel we can claim and then at that time we will come back and move that money. The \$220,000 it is a rough estimate on my part. I based that roughly on two years of Betty and her deputy's salary.

COVID mitigation could be such things as for custodians, the maintenance staff when they moved in and out the plexi glass, the EMA director on and on we don't really know yet. This is a ball park figure. That these other two items are money we should be able to once we find out exactly the amount move it from this grant back into the general fund or funds we deem it necessary. We are going to pay the treasurer's salary, everyone here is getting paid, her deputy is getting paid, but we may be able to use part of this 3.1 million dollars for those salaries for the next two years.

Chairman Wells called for a motion to approve items 3 and 4. *David Puccetti made a motion and Vicki McMahon seconded it.* Some discussion was had if this money could be used for employees who came into work during COVID. Not this money. This item is people dealing directly with COVID. Betty stated her salary is included because of her being the administrator. It's not extra money for her, her salary will be reimbursed to the county through this grant. Chairman Wells noted it is allowing us to move the money back into the general fund and then next year we can do with it however we deem necessary. With no further discussion Chairman Wells asked for a roll call.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.

- **Item 5 – Cybersecurity**  
 Estimates from CTI - \$820,000 to update everything. Reason that amount is so high one of the things they talked about is updating computers. Board cannot tell the departments what to buy but we can use this money and replace everything in the county so we are all as cyber safe as we can be.
- **Item 6 - HVAC**  
 Been discussed HVAC central air/heating in court house and replacing it in the jail. Bill Kennedy has been gone. This is high. This number could be way off. We could use the money for central air if it has heppa filters. If the air is zoned so everyone is not breathing the same air. Advisors telling us this qualifies.
- **Item 7 – Coroner Request**  
 Personal safety equipment we believe qualifies - \$20,000
- **Item 8 – Scanning/searching documents**  
 Jacque and I have talked about ability to have scanning/researching documents – would keep people from coming into the office and can ask and look for something remotely. Consultants are researching to see if we can. \$100,000
- **Item 9 – Fire Protection Districts/Ambulance/EMA**  
 New EMA director is doing a pretty good job. He sent in a pretty big request and also requested money for the health department. They operate by themselves and have requested their own money. EMA Director has requested giving grants to 10 fire departments and 4 ambulance services in the county. In order to do that we have been advised to have intergovernmental agreements. Betty is busy, I am busy, I ‘m busy enough I am calling special meetings, Liz is busy. My thinking is the EMA director is a county employee he has time to figure out what he can and cannot spend money on and the reason I put this in it this way if the board votes later on to do this give him so much money let him go by the equipment and pass it out. I don’t think it really matters he was talking about safety equipment for fire departments and ambulance services. And I don’t think it matters to them if they go buy it themselves or if he has it delivered to them. I don’t want to get into a bunch of intergovernmental agreements. \$100,000
- **Item 10 – Incentives for COVID shots**  
 One of the things I thought we could do there are several communities in the county but there are 10 bigger communities, set something up try to convince people to get the COVID shot. That’s what this money is all about. I know some are for and against. Bellwether is all for this. It shows the government we are trying to do something to stop the spread of COVID. We are pushing to get people vaccinated. \$100,000
- **Item 11 – Health Department**  
 Remodel building for safety–Vicki McMahon on the health board stated they are talking about moving. They are aware they cannot use this money to move. They would take the money and make spaces in the new building. \$100,000

- **Item 12 – Broadband**  
Qualifies for this program. Estimate to put broadband in all the communities in the county that do not have broadband; \$6,000,000. I wasn't going to say spend \$6,000,000 you guys want to move the money around that's the board decision.
- **Item 13 – SNAWS – Sharpsburg and Neighboring Area Water System**  
Asking for \$25,000. They have a federal grant and they were afraid they were going to run short because of COVID price of everything going up. According to the rules of the ARPA grant you cannot use one dime to match federal grants. They will not allow it. We cannot give them anything of this money. However, if the board wanted to - let's say Betty's salary and COVID mitigation totaling \$300,000 and we move that back into the general fund, the board could say we do want to help SNAWS since we have that money sitting there.
- **Item 14 – New 911 system**  
Asked about the cost and didn't get an answer thought about taking it off. Intergovernmental thing, different taxing bodies.
- **Item 15 – Hazardous Pay – Employees**  
Been told no in the past. I told the people who asked I would present to the board
- **Item 16 – Small Business Incentives**  
I would love to do something to get the restaurants all back up and running. Maybe a bonus to hire and stay for a month. I didn't know how to keep people from moving on after a month.
- **Item 17 – Highway – Drainage**
- **Item 18 – Health Department – Septic Assistance low Income**
- **Item 19 – Probation – HVAC Ventilation**

I left everything on here even if I didn't put money to it so the board would know what was requested of me. Keep in mind that there are items here with no money to them. But this is the first \$3,000,000 installment. We can keep these we can suggest them and move things around. Lastly we have lost revenue on here. Betty, Liz and I were at a meeting in Springfield a week ago on Monday and we were told if we look at items 15-19 saw how much our revenue went up each year. If it was going up 6 percent we could go back take 6 percent of our budget and move that amount of money from this fund back into our capital fund to replenish it. Betty told me this morning that unfortunately they count everything and one of the things was motor fuel tax and some other things so we didn't have a drop this year. So we do not qualify for any of this loss revenue. I wish we would have qualified for all of it because we could have put it in the general fund and spent it any way we wanted to. But we cannot do any of that.

Chairman Wells proposes that we send this outline spending money on items 5-11, is there a motion to do so: *Vickie McMahon made a motion Chuck Smedley second it.* Question was asked

if Bellwether could provide us with some guidelines or additional service as to what would be approved or not. Betty stated that Bellwether would send out a mass list to all the counties they have of the items that were a sure thing. Not sure when that list will be sent out. Mike Specha asked for clarification if we approve this general outline to Bellwether and decide Item 16 were going to put \$100,000 and take away from Item 10 COVID Shots – when do we actually get to spend it or are we stuck. Chairman Wells stated he didn't think so. They wanted a list and the ones with money attached are our priorities. I can't think for every one of you. So I came up with what I thought would be our priorities based on what I was told. With that being said when he gets this list he is going to know the ones with money attached are our priorities and what he is going to do is say yes you can do this or no you can't do this. I think I may be high on the HVAC and if I am, this would allow us to spend money on these other items. Mike Specha stated the Incentive for COVID shots - he would like to see the money spent on incentives for small businesses. Chairman Wells stated he is not against small business incentives he couldn't think of one that would help. I had some thoughts and some discussion and I thought – Mike Specha stated if a person is hired at one place, quit if they want to but is not eligible at another. I understand that but how does that help the small business. It will discourage people moving around. Venise McWard was concerned about the COVID shot and a person gets very sick from the vaccine and wants to sue the county. And I see your point and everybody who got a COVID shot from the health department could sue the county now. Mike Specha stated it's not necessary to make a change tonight we have time to do so. Chairman Wells stated he understood the concerns but the consultants think doing something to promote COVID Vaccine is a very good idea as far as how the government sees how we are spending the money but how it gets spent will be up to everyone in this room. After some lengthy discussion regarding small business incentives, Venise McWard asked about the New 911 system if we could take the money we took for that and put toward the general fund. Betty Asmussen spoke up and said how it is COVID related. That is what they are asking us constantly and said this money is for COVID only. Bellwether is needing a report to send it next month. This is a rough draft Bellwether is needing by July. Nothing is set in stone and things can be moved around. It is to stimulate our community because of the COVID pandemic. Cities and Villages are receiving ARPA funds as well. A lot of money flowing into the county and they have to abide by the same guidelines as county does.

Paula from Dunn's Ambulance Service some of this money being allocated to certain locations then go into the general fund to be dispersed later I would think EMS would be a place and of course Coroner and Health Department to put a big chunk towards. The coroner asked for \$20,000 for PPE that should really be \$50,000. If your goal is to get this money allocated EMS definitely or public health, coroner put it there or in the general fund because it will be used over time. I mean what I heard tonight EMS amount drastically went down. Chairman Wells stated what they asked for and what I put here with other figures and concerns. He asked for \$400,000 but he asked for the Health Department and that cannot happen. All this money has to be spent in two years. Betty Asmussen reiterated that this money is not to be set aside for a rainy day. There is documentation that has to be attached to every dollar spent. There is a lot of reporting that has to be completed. After much discussion Chairman Wells called for a roll call.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard (N), David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells,

Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, (12) aye; (1) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.

Ray Koonce asked if the previous motion was just for 5-11. Chairman Wells stated yes. *Ray Koonce made a motion to approve the list on 12, 15-19 adding line item 20 Mental Health Treatments; Mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, other behavioral health services, hotlines or warmlines, crisis intervention and services or outreach to promote access to health and social services. I would like to add this as number 20. Seconded by Mike Specha.*

Ray Koonce made a comment some of these items might be taken away because the dollar amounts might vary from time to time by the time it gets to finance committee. The reason why I wanted number 20 added is because it's covered under the rules. This county has a major drug problem among other issues. If we have money in our hands I believe there are different areas in that area that qualify for acts like this under the government for the drug problem in this county and if not we could always move this money elsewhere if we decide to finance how much you want to put towards it. But I think we need to make an effort to address the drug problem in this county in some way shape or form if we have the means to do so. I think it needs to be at least added to the list. Denise McWard asked if number 20 would be like for DARE and Ray Koonce responded yes if it qualifies under the list.

Chairman Wells stated again this is just a list to send to the consultants to say nay or yea.

Venise McWard stated under hazardous pay for employees. How would you define that? Chairman Wells stated according to the consultants Hazardous pay would be at levels 1, 2 or 3 regardless if you wanted to pay by the hour or pay a flat fee. They thought people who worked with it constantly would be Tier 1 - people who arrived at a scene where it was once in a while would be Tier 2 and people who worked remotely would be a Tier 3. And that there should be a difference in a flat fee or percentage of pay for those three levels. Venise McWard noted unlike other counties we did not furlough employees. The union has the sole right to negotiate for those employees. Mike Specha stated if we went to Tiers Pandora's box would be opened.

*Motion on the floor is 12, 16-20 to be approved.* After much discussion Chairman Wells called for roll.

A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: Venise McWard (N), David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahan, (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.

Sheriff and I had a brief conversation yesterday morning and I kind of put part of their needs in HVAC for Courthouse is why that number is so high and the second item is broadband at the jail because of all the excess working remotely going on. Sheriff thought that could be an issue there and wanted that improved. But I think if we spend near the money for cyber security that would include updates to make sure they can operate their computers. Because they are supposed to be looking at the whole thing making it all work better for that kind of money.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other unfinished business to come before the Board, a *motion was made by Dave Puccetti and seconded by Timothy Carlson to adjourn until **July, 20, 2021** for the regular County Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.* A roll call vote being called upon polled the following: David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Chuck Smedley, Thomas Snyder Jr., Mike Specha, Matt Wells, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Ken Franklin, Bev Graham, Ray Koonce, Vicki McMahon, Venise McWard, (13) aye; (0) nay; (3) absent; The motion carried.