

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 **September 17, 2024**
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 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clint Epley led Invocation this evening.

ROLL CALL

The roll call, by County Clerk Jodie Badman, showed the following: David Buckles, Timothy Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, and Jean Vandenberg as present. Ken Franklin, Miranda Langen, Vicki McMahon, Thomas Snyder, Jr., Mike Specha and Clayton Walter were absent. A quorum was had to hold the meeting.

APPROVE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Chairman Bryan Sharp asked for a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the August 20, 2024 County Board meeting. *Linda Curtin made a motion to approve the August 20, 2024, minutes, as written, David Buckles second. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

The Chairman then asked for a motion to approve the minutes, as written, from the August 29, 2024 Special County Board meeting. *David Puccetti made a motion to approve the August 29, 2024, minutes, as written, Jean Vandenberg second. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Sharp asked if there was any comments from the public and there were none.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Sharp stated there were no appointments that needed addressed this evening, but noted that he will be following up with Assumption Drainage District No. 4 who would be adding two members.

PETITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES AND/OR PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Sharp stated there were several petitions, resolutions, ordinances and/or proclamations to bring before the Board.

A number of resolutions presented to the Board from the Treasurer's Sale of Delinquent Tax Real Property and/or Mobile Homes. They are as follows:

R2024 TR 009 for parcel number 11-25-15-302-005-00 in Pana Township purchased by Philip Lynch. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve R2024 TR 009, Ray Koonce second. A roll call polled the following: David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp and Jean Vandenberg with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

R2024 TR 010 for parcel number 11-25-16-401-008-00 in Pana Township purchased by EZ Realty IL LLC. *Ray Koonce made a motion to approve R2024 TR 010, Clint Epley second. A roll call polled the following: Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg and David Buckles with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

R2024 TR 011 for parcel number 11-25-16-437-010-00 in Pana Township purchased by Natalie Smith, Mikhail Smith. *Jean Vandenberg made a motion to approve R2024 TR 011, Linda Curtin second. A roll call polled the following: Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles and Tim Carlson with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

R2024 TR 012 for parcel number 11-25-21-214-004-00 in Pana Township purchased by Jessica Esaw. *Jean Vandenberg made a motion to approve R2024 TR 012, Clint Epley second. A roll call polled the following: Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson and Linda Curtin with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

R2024 TR 013 for parcel number 11-25-21-241-002-02 in Pana Township purchased by Laporte Investments LLC. *David Buckles made a motion to approve R2024 TR 013, David Puccetti second. A roll call polled the following: Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

R2024 TR 014 for parcel number 15-12-08-418-006-00 in South Fork Township purchased by Eric Wells. *Jean Vandenberg made a motion to approve R2024 TR 014, Venise McWard second. A roll call polled the following: Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley and Clint Gabriel with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

R2024 TR 015 for parcel number 17-13-26-302-003-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Amanda Sneddon, Kevin Sneddon;

R2024 TR 016 for parcel number 15-11-36-700-001-00 in South Fork Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 017 for parcel number 15-12-32-700-002-00 in South Fork Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 018 for parcel number 15-12-34-700-002-00 in South Fork Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 019 for parcel number 17-12-12-700-002-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 020 for parcel number 17-12-13-700-001-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 021 for parcel number 17-12-32-700-001-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 021 for parcel number 17-12-32-700-001-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 022 for parcel number 17-13-33-700-001-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox;

R2024 TR 023 for parcel number 17-13-34-700-001-00 in Taylorville Township purchased by Keyrock Energy, Ben Cox.

Ray Koonce made a motion to approve R2024 TR 015 through R2024 TR 025, David Buckles second. A roll call polled the following: Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel and Ray Koonce with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay

Next, the Chairman brought mobile homes that were purchased in the Treasurer's Tax Sale.

R2024 TR 024 for parcel number 17-13-26-HI-111 address of 1500 E Main Cross St., Lot 120 purchased by John Hanford;

R2024 TR 025 for parcel number 17-13-26-HI-120 address of 1500 E Main Cross St., Lot 120 purchased by John Hanford.

Venise McWard made a motion to approve R2024 TR 024 and R2024 TR 025, Linda Curtin second. A roll call polled the following: David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce and Venise McWard with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

AUGUST 2024 COMMUNICATIONS

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

1. The Treasurer's Reports for period ending August 31, 2024
2. The Local Solid Waste Fees Fund report for August 2024
3. The August 2024 IDOT– Motor Fuel Tax Allotment and Transactions
4. The ROE Expenditure Report For June 2024
5. CEFS July 2024 PCOM report

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)

Chairman Sharp presented the Board with two ZBA ordinances. The first was ordinance O2024 ZB 019, referencing an Addition to the Zoning Code in Appendix B under Penalties. *Clint Epley made a motion to approve ZBA ordinance O2024 ZB 019, David Buckles second. No discussion. A roll call vote polled all ayes, motion carried.*

The next ordinance presented was O2024 ZB 020, referencing an Addition in the Zoning Code in Article X Administration. *Jean Vandenberg made a motion to approve ZBA ordinance O2024 ZB 020, Ray Koonce second. No discussion. A roll call vote polled all ayes, motion carried.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/ENVIRONMENTAL/ZONING AND WELFARE

David Buckles highlighted the meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee. He stated the meeting was called to order on Monday, September 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

Dave Buckles brought to the Board a request from Black Diamond Project for a Special Use Extension. *Dave Buckles made a motion to extend the Black Diamond Special Use Permit as set forth in the draft ordinance presented to the Committee subject to the conditions set forth therein, Linda Curtin second.* Discussion included Venise McWard wanting to clarify if these were additional conditions. Assistant State's Attorney Mary Barry stated these are additional changes and have already been included. Chairman Sharp stated that this motion needs to be amended due to a typo. *Linda Curtin made a motion to approve the amendments to the original ordinance, as presented, David Puccetti second. A roll call polled the following: Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard and David Puccetti with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay*

Ray Koonce made a motion to approve ordinance O2024 ZB 022 as amended, Clint Gabriel second. A roll call polled the following: Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti and Bryan Sharp with all ayes. Clint Epley, nay. Motion carried with (9) ayes, (1) nay

Highway business had a speed study request. *David Buckles made a motion to approve the draft ordinance pending confirmation of the residential district definition and to make a name correction on page one of the document, Ray Koonce second. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.*

Next was a request by County Engineer, Cliff Frye, to purchase a used 2001 International tandem dump truck. *David Buckles made a motion to allow County Engineer Cliff Frye the authority to negotiate up to a maximum of \$20,000.00 to purchase a used 2001 International tandem dump truck, Venise McWard second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp and Jean Vandenberg with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

David Buckles then presented a Preliminary Engineering Agreement, for County Highway 11. *David Buckles made a motion to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign the Engineering Services Agreement with Cummins Engineering Corp. for \$46,655.44 for Section Number 24-00052-03-RS. Tim Carlson, second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg and David Buckles with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

Next, the committee had made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign R2024 HY 026. *David Buckles made a motion to amend the motion to recommend to the full Board to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign R2024 HY 026, Resolution for Improvement Under the Illinois Highway Code; Section Number 24-00052-03-RS to allotting \$47,000 of MFT funds, Venise McWard second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg and David Buckles with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

David Buckles next brought to the Board and expenditure/authorization of MFT funds that needs the Chairman's approval and signature. *David Buckles made a motion to approve and authorize Chairman Sharp to sign Request for Expenditure/Authorization of Motor Fuel Tax Funds; Section Number 24-00052-03-RS for engineering services totally \$46,655.44, Linda Curtin, second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson and Linda Curtin, with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

The recommendation was a change order for HVAC costs from Henson Robinson to increase the HVAC capacity in the courtrooms. *David Buckles made a motion to authorize Chairman Sharp to sign the change order allowing Henson Robinson to proceed with the work to increase the HVAC capacity in all court rooms and to use ARPA funds from the Court House Improvements Ordinance, O2023 CB 024, in the amount of \$88,194.45 to pay Henson Robinson for the cost of this work order change. Jean Vandenberg, second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Clint Gabriel, Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin and Clint Epley, with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

Another recommendation that a standard agreement is to be provided for any bids related to county properties. *David Buckles made a motion approve the form agreement to be entered into in connection with bids pertaining to county properties subject to any changes therein for any particular bid as approved by the Maintenance Supervisor and the State's Attorney's Office. Jean Vandenberg, second. No discussion. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.*

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR

Clint Epley, Committee Chair, highlighted the meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee. He advised that the meeting be called to order on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to address any agenda items, any personnel issues, policies and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

Clint Epley brought to the Board a job description from Public Defender, Tiffany Senger, for a grant funded Client Advocate position. *Clint Epley made a motion that the starting salary for the Client Advocate position shall be \$40,000.00 conditional upon receipt of the state reimbursed grant. David Puccetti, second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Ray Koonce, Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley and Clint Gabriel, with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

Epley then presented the 2025 Holiday Schedule to the Board. Clint Epley made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. Tim Carlson, second. A roll call polled all ayes, motion carried.

AUDIT/FINANCE/PURCHASING/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Venise McWard, Chairman highlighted the Audit/Finance/Purchasing/Budget Committee that met on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

Venise McWard brought to the Board the need to approve the claims presented for September 2024. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the claims presented for September 2024, second by Clint Epley. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel and Venise McWard, with all ayes. Ray Koonce abstained. Motion carried with (9) ayes, (1) nay.*

NEW BUSINESS AND OTHER MATTERS

- **Job description-Client Advocate in the Public Defender's Office**

Liz Hile stated that she and Tiffany Senger, Public Defender, worked together to produce a job description.

- **Animal Control Operation and Funding**

Chairman Sharp asked for a motion to from the Board to allow Steve Craggs to present. *Linda Curtin made a motion to allow a presentation from Steve Craggs. Ray Koonce, second. A roll call vote polled all ayes.*

Steve Craggs presented a proposal for a new cat wing at the Animal Control building to the Board. His opinion was that the facility would be more presentable for people wanting to adopt. Craggs stated that Brad Siegrist had given a bid of \$400,000, around a year and a half ago. There were no funds available for that project at that time. This is when Sheri Craggs opened the Fur Love store. For the first ten (10) months, the store was located in old Larry Sutton building. Craggs stated that the public outpouring was amazing. All of the funds that Fur Love has taken in donations or products sold, all of the receipts from that are held in a suspense account at Midland Bank and First National Bank on Spresser. There have been no expenses the first ten (10) months. Steve stated that he and Sheri paid the expenses for those first ten (10) months.

Fur Love then ran out of room and moved to their current location at 122 W Market, Taylorville from which they purchased in November 2023 from Lee and Dyanne Skinner. They have completely restored the building.

Steve Craggs stated that he wanted the Board to think about what to do, that he and Sheri were flexible. They are open to ideas of what needs to be done, what should be done or if anything should be done.

He went on to say the he and Chairman Sharp have had many discussions on whether the facility is an Animal Control or Animal Shelter.

With ample inventory coming into the store and the great amount of patrons who purchase the inventory, they have a significant amount already. They have had to hire a couple of people to help with the inventory and customers.

Craggs stated again that they were flexible and they want to provide funding to help expand and help the Animal Control system. They wanted the Board to know that they are open for discussion.

Venise McWard asked what the square footage of the new addition that is being proposed. Steve Craggs stated that it was approximately 2,400 square foot. McWard asked Craggs if the bid was \$400,000 about a year ago to which Craggs replied that bid included twelve (12) more kennels as well as the addition.

McWard then asked Donna Kelmel, Animal Control Director, how many current employees were staffed at Animal Control. Kelmel stated she had one (1) full time and four (4) part time. McWard asked how many additional employees it would take to staff with the proposed new addition. Kelmel stated that it would take quite a few more as they are struggling now without the addition. Sheri Craggs spoke up to say that, her opinion was that the dogs are cooped up at night and they are not sleeping. Then in the mornings, there were messes to clean because of the tight kennel space.

Bryan Sharp interjected and stated that the question from McWard was not directed to the audience.

Jean Vandenberg stated that if the proposed addition were approved, more employees would be imminent. She ask Steve Craggs if he had thought about building the shelter himself. Craggs replied that they have not yet and it may be a possibility.

There were no more questions from the Board.

Sheri and Steve Craggs stated that they were also going to have a solar system at the proposed addition.

Chairman Sharp spoke about the distinct differences between Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Christian County is not an Animal Shelter. Sharp stated that the bulk of the State statute indicates that we are tasked with controlling rabies in the County. Sharp thanked the volunteers for helping at the Animal Control and stated that they are trying to budget additional help.

Sharp stated that one area that continues to pop up is this proposed animal shelter. Sharp reiterated that the Craggs have proposed an animal shelter; the county has not proposed this. The advertisement has presented that this is a proposed animal shelter. Sharp stated that in regards to the fundraising, the County's name should not be included and this needs to be clarified. In further discussions with the Board, Sharp stated that a motion needs to be made to resolve that Fur Love, Steve & Sheri Craggs and any other person or persons associated, shall immediately cease and desist from using the County's name in advertising, fundraising and other purposes and immediately remove any and all references to the County on any advertising, Facebook page, documents or sources, internally or publicly facing. *David Buckles made a motion to resolve that Fur Love, Steve & Sheri Craggs and any other person or persons associated, shall immediately cease and desist from using the County's name in advertising, fundraising and other purposes and immediately remove any and all references to the County on any advertising, Facebook page, documents or sources, internally or publicly facing. David Puccetti, second. No discussion. A roll call vote polled all ayes, motion carried.*

Ray Koonce made a motion to authorize Chairman Sharp to sign a cease and desist letter, to be drafted in coordination with the State's Attorney's office, to provide written notice on our position of this matter. Venise McWard, second. A roll call vote polled all ayes, motion carried.

- **Mileage and Per Diem Report**

Chairman Sharp entertained a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report for September 2024. *Venise McWard made a motion to approve the Mileage and Per Diem Report for September 2024, Tim Carlson, second. No discussion. A roll call polled the following: Venise McWard, David Puccetti, Bryan Sharp, Jean Vandenberg, David Buckles, Tim Carlson, Linda Curtin, Clint Epley, Clint Gabriel and Ray Koonce, with all ayes. Motion carried with (10) ayes, (0) nay.*

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u># of Meetings This Month</u>	<u>Extension of Rate</u>
David Buckles	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Timothy Carlson	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Linda Curtin	\$100.00	\$25.00	4	\$100.00
Clint Epley	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Ken Franklin	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Clint Gabriel	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Ray Koonce	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Miranda Langen	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Vicki McMahan	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Venise McWard	\$100.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
David Puccetti	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Thomas Snyder, Jr.	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Mike Specha	\$100.00	\$25.00	2	\$50.00
Jean Vandenberg	\$100.00	\$25.00	3	\$75.00
Clayton Walter	\$100.00	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Bryan Sharp	\$769.24			

- **Adjournment**

- Chairman Sharp called for a motion from the floor to adjourn until next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2024. *Tim Carlson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and second by David Puccetti. Motion carried with all ayes.*