



# Peoria County Board Meeting Minutes

Peoria County

Jun 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM CDT

@ County Courthouse, 324 Main Street, County Board Room 403, Peoria, IL

## **Attendance**

### **Present:**

Members: Jennifer Groves Allison, Eden Blair, Camille Coates, Jimmy Dillon, Betty Duncan, Brian Elsasser, Nathan Hoerr, Daniel Kelch, Danny Phelan, Rob Reneau, Steve Rieker, Paul Rosenbohm, Terrence Ruhland, Phil Salzer, Sharon Williams, Matt Windish

### **Absent:**

Members: Brandy Bryant, Linda Daley

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Rosenbohm moved for approval of the minutes, and Member Groves Allison seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 16 ayes.

## II. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Recognizing Peoria County Treasurer, Nicole Bjerke's 25 years of Service
- B. A proclamation congratulating Mya Strahm on her first place finish in the IHSA Class 1A pole vault state championship
- C. A proclamation congratulating Chelsea Wetzel on her first place finish in the IHSA Class 2A pole vault state championship

- D. A proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of E9-1-1
- E. A proclamation recognizing the 125th anniversary of Better Banks
- F. A proclamation recognizing Peoria Proud for the extensive contributions to the community
- G. A proclamation recognizing Peoria Friendship House on their significant contribution to Peoria County

### III. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Kellie Timpe addressed the Board about Case ZBA-2023-020. She is concerned about the business that is trying to go into the Lake of the Woods Plaza, which is a gambling bar. She feels for example as the statistics in public violence and DUIs increase, property values decrease. She is worried because the area is densely populated with a high pedestrian traffic area and the statistics don't bode well. She asked the Board if this does pass that they add some restrictions for instance not allowing a beer garden or adding something to promote the safety of pedestrians.

Michael Jaggard decided not to speak.

Daurice Coaster addressed the Board about approving a moratorium on CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines. She handed 117 personal requests to the County Board in support of a moratorium on CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines until the US Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration updates their regulations. She paused for eight seconds and stated that eight seconds is the time it takes to escape before being knocked unconscious by a carbon dioxide explosion if you are 1/2 mile from the explosion site. She noted that there are five elementary schools along the proposed CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline route in Peoria Illinois. She indicated that there were only 22 days left until the deadline for the Illinois Commerce Commission application to be filed by ADM and Wolf. She informed the Board that if this pipeline was approved, ADM and Wolf would be breaking ground in about six months. She detailed that less than 1,000 residents out of 14,010 have even been notified that this pipeline is a possibility in their area. She asked the Board to approve a moratorium on the pipeline to give residents more time to consider this issue.

Nick Firmand addressed the Board about approving a moratorium on CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines. He explained that there is a great environmental impact on reducing climate change if the CO<sub>2</sub> is sequestered. He highlighted that frontline environmental groups would say that

carbon sequestration is not a good solution for climate change. He mentioned that companies that store this CO<sub>2</sub> underground stand to gain huge tax incentives from the Federal Government. He stressed that depending on the technology used by the companies to capture the carbon, according to a European study, actually increases the amount of particulate pollution out into the community. He summarized that companies will potentially be contributing to more particulate pollution, profiting by getting federal incentives to capture the CO<sub>2</sub>, and profiting again when they sell the CO<sub>2</sub> to oil companies for enhanced oil recovery, and the County and residents see no benefit. He recommended to the Board to approve a moratorium on CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines in Peoria County.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- C1. The Monthly Treasurer's Report
- C2. The Auditor's report of expenditures from Accounts Payable system is accessible at [www.peoriacounty.gov/auditor/transparency](http://www.peoriacounty.gov/auditor/transparency).
- C3. Monthly Delinquent Taxes - April 2023
- C4. Ordinance authorizing West Peoria Township Parcel Correction
- C5. FY2023 Budget Appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
- C6. Police Service Agreement with Pleasant Valley School District #62
- C7. Police Service Agreement with Princeville Unit School District #326 and the Village of Princeville
- C8. Police Service Agreement with Village of Norwood
- C9. Petco Love Grant Award
- C10. Amendment #1 to the 2023-2024 Peoria County Board Rules of Order
- C11. Chairman Appointments

Member Blair moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Duncan seconded. The Consent Agenda was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 16 ayes.

#### V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Case ZBA-2023-020, Ravikumar Patel

Member Rosenbohm moved to approve the petition and Member Williams seconded. Member Rieker mentioned that this is in his district and there were over 50 objectors to this petition that were heard at the ZBA hearing. He stated that most of the objections were due to the closeness of the business to residential properties. He informed the Board that in support of the residents and objectors, he will be voting no. Member Elsasser remarked that he feels there is a reason why the Ordinance lists five hundred (500) feet from any residential district. He declared that if his residence was within one hundred (100) feet of this establishment that he would be opposed to it as well and asked the Board to consider the same thing. He explained that these people have been there for years, and we should take into consideration how they feel about this. He said he would be voting no as well. Chairman Dillon reminded the Board that the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Land Use Committee recommended unanimous approval with restrictions, which Member Ruhland suggested to help to take into account some of the neighborhood's concerns. He brought up that about three months prior, the Board approved a petition that was actually closer to houses than this one is in Member Williams' district. Member Rosenbohm mentioned that Mr. Patel has offered concessions and tried to address everyone's concerns. He explained that he is a property rights advocate. He noted that if you are a property owner and you meet all the requirements, then the person should be allowed the opportunity to have their business. He summarized that sometimes you vote for something that you personally wouldn't want to have but because they have met the requirements of the County, will move forward and vote yes. Chairman Dillon specified that the restrictions Member Ruhland suggested were limiting the time frame and not allowing Mr. Patel to sell tobacco or vape products at the establishment. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 3 nays, with Members Elsasser, Hoerr, and Rieker voting nay.

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Reneau remarked that any community members or Board members that are present who are interested in a Peoria County Pride Flag lapel pin, to see Gretchen Pearsall in the back of the room.

Member Blair mentioned that on June 28, 2023, Distillery Labs will be hosting a showcase of the startups going through the GBeta Accelerator Program, which is open to the public.

Member Phelan highlighted that last month all Board members and staff received a total compensation letter. He noted that he found it extremely valuable when discussing benefits available to employees. He thanked the staff and administration for getting this information out and for all the hard work they did.

Chairman Dillon noted that they have received very good feedback from the broadband survey that went out. He mentioned that there were around 2500 residents and a few hundred mail returns from the city, rural and multiple businesses. He urged the Board to talk to people and encourage them to fill out the survey even if they have internet access in their homes. He noted that he even got a text from his aunt asking about the survey and assured her that it was not a scam. He encouraged everyone to complete the broadband survey because the data will be used to guide their policies.

Member Rosenbohm asked if Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, could address the home energy and that information would be helpful to pass on to constituents.

Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, reminded the Board that about a decade ago the voters were asked if they wanted to create a municipal electric aggregation program, which was overwhelmingly approved. Homefield Energy was the company that was awarded the initial bid and the contract expired last year. He stated that Energy Harbor has become the new local Electric Municipal Aggregation supplier. He explained that on May 26, 2023, Ameren locked in their rates which is the reason why Energy Harbor mailed notices to homeowners and businesses giving them the option to voluntarily opt out of the program. He emphasized that they are not able to advise residents on whether they should stay in the program or not. He mentioned that the contract with Energy Harbor runs through December of 2025 and the rate they have been guaranteed is \$.097 per kilowatt hour which is less than what the Ameren rate was a year ago. He specified that if a resident decides to opt out of the aggregation program, there is a utility hold for returning to Ameren they must remain with them for twelve months. He recommended that residents avoid third-party solicitors because introductory rates may be quite appealing, but prices can escalate quickly.

Member Elsasser inquired if Administrator Sorrel could bring all the information together regarding who is included in the block that they are a part of and who negotiates on the County's behalf.

Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, conveyed that he would be happy to compile the information requested by Member Elsasser. He mentioned that the buying block that they are a part of includes us, and most other municipalities in Peoria County and it goes as far east as Champaign, Danville, and Decatur as well as further into Southern Illinois. Chairman Dillon conveyed that there will be no Executive Session tonight. He remarked that at the next Executive-Level committee, there will be an executive session discussing any outstanding lawsuits. He noted that this would be a good opportunity for some of the new members to hear about the cases.

Rachael Parker, County Clerk, recommended that the Board members look for an update on their iPads and make sure they install it as that is maybe why some were having issues this evening.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman announced the meeting was adjourned.