



Peoria County Board Meeting Minutes

Peoria County

Jul 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM CDT

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

Attendance

Present:

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

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Daley moved for approval of the minutes, and Member Duncan seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Boy Scouts of America 50th anniversary of scouting in Central Illinois
- B. Peoria Chiefs 40th anniversary
- C. Recognizing everyone involved in rescuing residents from the Edgewood Apartments fire last month, including community members Norman Johnson, Tristian Morris, and Dillon Lyon; Peoria County Sheriff's Office Deputies Joseph Vissering, Miles Winder, Tim Gilmore, and Lieutenant David Zook; West Peoria Firefighters Kacper Soja, Zach Scutter, and John Harris; and Limestone Firefighters Alex Stauthammer and Alexis Mathewson

III. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Randy Knussman addressed the Board regarding the Hanna City Farm. He inquired if the County owns the Hanna City Farm. Chairman Dillon commented yes. Mr. Knussman said he would like to rent the property and put livestock on it since it has a secure fence. He also stated that he would provide water for the livestock and the livestock would eliminate the need to pay to mow the land. He suggested that the land can be used by the 4-H program to house their animals. Chairman Dillon informed Mr. Knussman that they would consider his request and asked for an email address to contact him after it has been discussed.

Joyce Blumenshine, from the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, addressed the Board to update them on the status of the CO₂ pipeline. She provided the Chairman with a copy of the City of Peoria intervention document that was submitted to the Illinois Commerce Commission. She explained this means the City is a participant in the case that is currently before the Illinois Commerce Commission in Springfield. She reminded the Board this case is regarding the Wolf Carbon Solutions US LLC application for the construction operation of a high-pressure hazardous CO₂ pipeline that will run through Peoria County. She asked for the County to intervene so the Board can make comments or request information. She also urged the Board to consider the petitions that were submitted last month, and a moratorium be put in place on the CO₂ pipeline due to federal regulation not being in place because they are still under review.

Chairman Dillon informed the Board Council was in attendance at the hearing regarding the CO₂ pipeline and will be intervening similarly to the City. He explained they would intervene with a neutral position so data can be gathered. He mentioned that any questions can be directed toward staff or Council.

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.
- C3. Monthly Delinquent Taxes - May 2023
- C4. Monthly Delinquent Taxes - June 2023
- C5. FY2022 Appropriation of General Fund Surplus Reserves to Capital Projects Fund
- C6. 2023 Long Term Care Services Fund

- C7. FY2023 Appropriation related to Police Service Agreement with DCFS
- C8. FY2023 Appropriation related to Police Service Agreement with Illini Bluffs School District #327
- C9. Maddie's Fund Grant Award
- C10. Best Friends Animal Society Scholarship Award
- C11. National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) Grant Award to Coroner's Office
- C12. 2023 State's Attorney Collection Fund
- C.13 2023 Risk Management Fund
- C14. Peoria County Parking Deck PARCS System Replacement
- C15. Probation Department Flooring Installation
- C16. Contract for architectural services for Circuit Clerk Office remodel
- C17. Contract for architectural services for County Highway Maxwell Station
- C18. Courthouse Plaza Steps Reconstruction
- C19. Courthouse Roof Replacement Project
- C20. Old Galena Road Local Public Agency Amendment #1
- C21. Geotechnical Exploration Services Agreement with IMEG Consultants
- C22. Maxwell Road Phase II Preliminary Engineering Agreement
- C23. Peoria County Highway Access Regulation Ordinance
- C24. Approval of Bond for Elizabeth A. Crider, Regional Superintendent of Schools
- C25. Chairman Appointments

Member Blair moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Groves-Allison seconded. Member Williams requested to pull Item C6. Member Rieker requested to pull Items C16 and C23. The Consent Agenda, except for Items C6, C16, and C23, was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

Member Williams moved to approve Item C6 and Member Blair seconded. Member Williams provided an amendment to Item C6. She explained the language stating to first pay down the negative fund balance was crossed out. She mentioned that this conversation started with Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, and Heather McCord, CFO, about paying off the debt certificates for the Wilhelm Bridge. She inquired during those conversations if the debt certificates could be paid off and they were not able to do so. She noted that the

extra money they have could be set aside to collect interest but unfortunately aren't able to do that either. Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, explained any time you have debt certificates you have to avoid arbitrage and stay within certain parameters of the bond ordinance in terms of how much interest can be earned. Member Williams asked for this wording to be pulled because if the Board does pay this and then in nine years when the bonds are callable, they would only have \$1.6 million to put down towards the \$11 million dollars. She conveyed that this means that they will have to refinance and will have an additional eight to nine years left to pay on those bonds. She stated that taking this language out is the first step. She mentioned the second step is for Heather McCord, CFO, to work on getting a number on what they have in aged receivables that she believes they will not be able to get. She reported that the number is currently at \$3.7 million however Ms. McCord believes that number could come down and will take around four to six months to acquire. Member Williams expressed with the Board's approval that they can write those dollars off which means they will be at zero. She explained that everything they collect from now until nine years from now will stay in that fund that the Treasurer will invest. She predicted that they will have around \$8 million dollars. She remarked that they will be setting up the Board nine years from now up to potentially pay the bonds off. She specified that it has been a goal of hers to get out of this bond debt as soon as possible. She stated in nine years, if they are able to pay those bonds off, they will have six pennies to use to lower the tax levy or the money could be used for infrastructure. Member Ruhland recognized that this amendment is the difference of ten words, but it makes a difference of \$18 million, \$9 million of which goes to the good down the road or still being in the hole \$9 million. He mentioned those two numbers added together is what Member Williams will save the County. He declared that he will be nominating her for Board Member of the Month and possibly of the Year. He emphasized that it is fantastic what Member Williams found and he applauded her effort. He also remarked that he is glad that Member Williams will be sticking around for the next nine years to make sure that payoff happens. Member Williams moved to amend Item C6 and Member Daley seconded. Member Daley applauded Member Williams for her efforts and mentioned that she also has been wanting to pay off these bonds since her first day on the Board. She commented that what the Board will be saving taxpayers is phenomenal. She thanked Member Williams for being diligent and digging into this. Member Williams added that over 20 years they would be paying \$11 million dollars in interest. Chairman Dillon thanked Member Williams and all who assisted in making this a priority.

The motion to amend Item C6 was passed by a unanimous voice vote of 18 ayes. Item C6 as amended was passed by a unanimous voice vote of 18 ayes.

Member Rieker moved to approve Item C16 and Member Bryant seconded. Member Rieker clarified that the office space is about 8500 square ft., not the 1650 square ft. listed which makes the cost per foot more reasonable. He mentioned this was in Infrastructure Committee and since there has been a significant amount of work done, he asked Chairman Dillon for an update. Chairman Dillon expressed that there are space needs in this County. He said the Treasurer has expressed a need for more space for the flow of people through her office and Circuit Clerk, Robert Spears, has files that need to be moved. He highlighted that this goes along with the discussions the Board has been having about maximizing the space they have and utilizing it properly. He remarked that he doesn't know the space needs of the Circuit Clerk's office but there is potential all that space may not be needed, and offices can be moved around. He gave the example of the Order of Protection office, being a small space managed by the Center for Prevention of Abuse, which could potentially be moved into the Circuit Clerk's office. He noted Dewberry and Mr. Unes will be coming in and seeing what the needs actually are because at this time we don't know what the offices will look like until after they complete the assessment. He stressed that the contract does need changes including the square footage. Member Rieker inquired if the Board can move forward with the understanding that there will be contractual changes or if an amendment needed to be done. Chairman Dillon emphasized that they would be approving it for the principle of the contract. Member Rieker stated that he wanted to make sure that they were following the correct procedures. Chairman Dillon reminded the Board that eight years ago there was a flood in the Circuit Clerk's office, and it has been a long time coming to get to this point to allow the employees to have an office space that works for them. Member Ruhland said that upon reviewing the packet he had some concerns. He expressed that with the assurance of Dewberry rewriting attachment C to more clearly reflect the direction as well as the square footage that this project entails, he would feel more comfortable. Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, promised that he would ensure working with the State's Attorney's office that the direction of the board is executed, depending on the vote turns out. Member Salzer discussed how this has been in the works for about eight years and the Circuit Clerk's office has been very patient and cooperative along the way. He conveyed that other projects have been put before this one including the IT Department and Public Defenders office projects.

He believes that the Board should move forward with Dewberry at this time. Chairman Dillon recognized Tracy Coker, from Dewberry. Ms. Coker explained that they would change the square footage in the contract and that they would work together to work out a contract that everyone could agree on. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of 18 ayes.

Member Windish moved to approve Item C23 and Member Kelch seconded. Member Rieker explained he asked to pull Item C23 for transparency purposes and asked if Highway Engineer, Amy McLaren, could provide an update. He remarked this will change how landowners conduct business with the County when they need to put an access way in from the county highway to their property. He also noted that they may want to put out a press release so they can remain transparent with the citizens of Peoria. Amy McLaren, County Engineer, explained that this is for access to parcels on county highways, for example, new residences that need to cross a ditch to get to their parcel. She noted that the existing ordinance was done in the late 1990s and the cost to the property owner was \$650 for the Highway Department to install the access as well as the labor, materials, and equipment rentals. She emphasized that the fee is no longer covering the cost and is actually considerably more. She said the new ordinance they are proposing would have the property owner install a culvert while they are building according to Highway Department standards. She explained that the Highway Department would work with the property owner to assist them in understanding the standards, but it would fall on to the property owner as opposed to the Highway Department. She stressed that when the culvert is installed by the property owner it would then become the responsibility of the Highway Department. She noted this would free up staff time so other things can be done on county roads. Member Rosenbohm asked if the property owners would still be required to put a galvanized culvert in or if they would be able to put a double-walled plastic one in. Ms. McLaren explained that they are still looking at steel culverts but internal discussions have been had about other types of pipes per IDOT specifications. She said they would be looking at that as an option in some situations moving forward. Member Windish stated that he sees this as a positive and it is not to discourage anyone it is meant to help cover the cost. Chairman Dillon thanked Ms. McLaren and her team for all their hard work and Member Windish for bringing this up so the conversations could be had to make sure the County isn't losing money and still respecting landowners. Member Ruhland mentioned that having the townships follow suit would be a good idea. Ms. McLaren stated that she would reach out to the township road

commissioners and if they choose to implement it they are welcome to the model ordinance. Member Rosenbohm inquired if there is any cost to them to have the Highway Department come out or a permit fee. Ms. McLaren said they are looking at a lesser permit fee that could be waived in certain circumstances. Member Rosenbohm asked what she thought the cost may be. Ms. McLaren explained that she would have to look but the amount is found in the agenda packet. Member Kelch inquired what the cost would be to the County. Ms. McLaren conveyed that the cost is over \$3000 per entrance. Chairman Dillon asked how many entrances the County was putting in in a year. Ms. McLaren noted that last year twenty entrances were put in. Member Groves-Allison explained that she felt it was a good plan; however, it is important to know what range of fees is being looked at, meaning the new permit fee. Ms. McLaren stated that depending on whether it was a residential or commercial roadway, it would be around a \$500-\$1000 fee. Member Ruhland remarked that upon doing the math, instead of losing \$2400 on every entrance they are now going to be saving \$48,000. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of 18 ayes.

V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

1. Case ZBA-2023-023, Marilyn Strickfaden.

Member Rosenbohm moved to approve the petition and Member Daley seconded. Member Rosenbohm explained this was just a typical land split where they are selling off the house and the buildings but keeping the farmland. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

2. Capital Improvements Project Manager

Member Daley moved to approve the resolution and Member Ruhland seconded. Chairman Dillon mentioned that Bob Unes is in the audience tonight and he is a wonderful human being. He mentioned that the Board has taken a real interest in our facilities as of late and also has many construction projects going on right now and in the next couple of years. He reminded the Board during COVID, they had to let their facilities manager go. He explained that the Board felt it would be beneficial at this time to have an owner's rep and a construction person overseeing some of these projects. He noted that Mr. Unes would be their eyes

and ears on construction sites and attend job meetings. He explained that Mr. Unes has a Construction Management degree from Bradley and has many years of experience in this field, juggling multiple projects at one time. He highlighted that Mr. Unes' consultant fee will be revisited on a yearly basis and he will receive an iPad if he chooses. Chairman Dillon thanked Member Ruhland for his suggestions and ideas as well as thanking Scott Sorrel and Mark Little for meeting and having these discussions. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

3. Reappointment of County Engineer

Member Kelch moved to approve the resolution and Member Salzer seconded. Chairman Dillon asked Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, to explain this process to the newer Members. Mr. Sorrel explained that in all 102 Counties, the County Board appoints a County Engineer. He noted that Ms. McLaren meets all four of the requirements to be appointed to this position and that this is her third term they are voting on. He recognized that Ms. McLaren is one of four female County Engineers in Illinois, and he believes she is the longest-tenured as well. He remarked that they participate in a salary reimbursement program where the Department of Transportation tells them what the minimum salary for the County Engineer can be, the Board sets that and a substantial portion of that salary gets reimbursed through the motor fuel tax. Member Salzer expressed that Ms. McLaren has done a wonderful job of keeping the Infrastructure Committee informed. He asked Ms. McLaren if she was a Bradley graduate. Ms. McLaren said yes. Member Salzer asked if she was a local girl and Ms. McLaren commented that no she wasn't, but she was adopted by Peoria. Member Elsasser declared that living in a rural district there is no one better to take phone calls than Ms. McLaren even on the weekends. He said that he was driving down a road the other day and called to tell her how impressed he was with the work they had done and what they had done. He asserted that she was a very good County Engineer. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Elsasser commented that Santa Claus came early tonight, recognizing Member Phelan.

Member Salzer mentioned the 74th annual Heart of Illinois fair starts next week. He invited the Members to come out and enjoy hospitality night. He also stated that he was proud of how the government worked in either Pennsylvania or New Jersey when that bridge collapsed. He mentioned that the government got it back up and operating in 12 days because people got together and got it done.

Member Rieker asked Mark Little, Chief Information Officer, for an update on the new AV System. Mr. Little said he would be crossing his fingers that it will work. He explained there would be six screens and pointed out where they would be going. He explained that there will no longer be a fixed camera, but IP cameras will be installed. He mentioned that there will be plug-ins at each spot so the Members can charge their devices. Member Rieker expressed how excited he is for the next meeting as this new system has been in the works for a couple of years.

Member Ruhland said that he has no doubt that hiring Bob Unes will be the greatest thing that has ever happened to our Capital Improvements list.

Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, reminded the Board that the last resolution they passed reappointing Amy McLaren, County Engineer, is part one of a three-part process. He went on to say that they have to submit some paperwork to IDOT and in a few months there will be an additional resolution that they will have to act on to complete the process. He explained that July 25, 2023, will be conducted at the Peoria Riverfront Museum and they will also present their annual update, which they must do. He expressed that on July 18, 2023, at 8:00 am, the main building at Health Department will be demolished and information on that event and how to arrive safely will be sent out tomorrow.

Chairman Dillon thanked the Treasurer and Sheriff for being present. He also commented that he, as Chairman, finally got served with papers by the Police due to ZBA being sued. He mentioned that the Police Officer was kind and wonderful talking to his children, who thought that being served was cool.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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