

Sharon K. Williams, District 1  
Junior Watkins, District 2  
Betty Duncan, District 3  
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4  
Brandy Bryant, District 5  
Eden S. Blair, District 6  
James C. Dillon, District 7  
Phillip Salzer, District 8  
Kathrin Pastucha, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson  
Rachael Parker - County Clerk

Robert Reneau, District 10  
Linda Daley, District 11  
Rachel Reliford, District 12  
Vice-Chairperson-James T. Fennell, District 13  
Brian Elsasser, District 14  
Steven Rieker, District 15  
Matthew Windish, District 16  
Jennifer Groves Allison, District 17  
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

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**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 8, 2022  
6:00 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602  
Voice: (309) 672-6056 • Fax: (309) 672-6054 • TDD: (309) 672-6073  
[www.peoriacounty.gov](http://www.peoriacounty.gov)

**CALL TO ORDER  
MOMENT OF SILENCE  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK**

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Members Blair, Bryant, Daley, Dillon, Duncan, Elsasser, Fennell, Groves Allison, Pastucha (Via teleconference), Rand, Reliford (Via teleconference), Reneau, Rieker, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Watkins, Williams, and Windish.

**I. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

3. A resolution from your Executive Committee recommending approval of an amendment to the FY2022 General Fund budget in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of contributing to the costs of preparing an application for the Passenger Rail Corridor Identification and Development Program. *(Pending Committee Approval)*

Member Williams moved to approve the resolution and Member Bryant seconded. Chairman Rand mentioned this topic was discussed comprehensively during Executive Session, but there would be further discussion because some members were not present at that meeting. Member Rosenbohm conveyed unhappiness with how quickly the issue was presented to the Board and that it should have been discussed for a couple of months before being expected to vote. He remarked that the money could do much good in other places. He believed the charter buses currently traveling to Chicago are a better alternative.

Member Groves Allison mentioned that the item was discussed during Executive Committee, not in Executive Session as previously stated. She noted that Peoria would be guaranteed not to have rail service if the Board votes against the resolution. Member Bryant commented that she frequently rides the train to Chicago. She expressed frustration at having to drive to Bloomington to take the train. She mentioned that 32,000 constituents favor a passenger train station in Peoria, and the Board should try to give the people what they want. Member Blair stressed that the route would not only take passengers to Chicago, but to multiple stops along the way. She discussed that this makes the route look more attractive. She brought up the economic benefits of having a train station in downtown Peoria, stating that passengers would then be staying in hotels in Peoria instead of surrounding cities.

Member Elsasser expressed concern over two previous Peoria train lines shut down due to low usage. He agreed with Member Rosenbohm that the issue was presented too quickly to the Board.



He reported that some constituents he spoke with would use the train, but they suggested using the money for something else. He said having rail service in ten years may be nice, but something should be done now to keep and attract people to Peoria. Chairman Rand clarified why the topic seemed to be brought up last minute. He noted the issue was brought up during a Passenger Rail Leadership Committee meeting last Friday and added to the Executive Committee agenda for this week.

Member Williams asked for a legal opinion on whether Peoria County would be legally bound to any future funding for the project. Jennie Cordis Boswell, Assistant State's Attorney, confirmed the only amount before the Board is \$50,000. Member Williams asked if an agreement was being signed. Ms. Cordis Boswell asserted that no agreements are being proposed to be signed at this time. Member Williams questioned if Peoria County was asked to provide additional funding in the future if it could be declined. Ms. Cordis Boswell confirmed the County could decline.

Member Rieker brought up the scope of the project, stating the project would be for a passenger rail on freight lines, not for a high-speed electric train. He expressed concern over the environmental impact of diesel trains. He conveyed that diesel trains may not be the best when the community is attempting to reduce its carbon footprint. Member Reneau remarked that gas and electric cars could be driven on the same road. He contended that diesel and electric trains should be able to ride on the same track. Member Rieker commented that electric trains run off an infrastructure grid that must be built into the railway. He expressed the desire to plan for the future and consider investing in electric rather than diesel trains. Member Reneau stressed that it's hard to prepare for what technology will allow for in the future. Member Rieker emphasized the speed at which the issue was brought before the Board. He said he asked Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, if the issue could be brought before the Board later to allow for more discussion but was told the deadline would not allow it. Member Windish explained that the members of his district already have access to rail service, given their proximity to Kewanee and Galesburg. He stated he would be voting no for this reason. Member Reliford commented that she would be voting no because of the timeline and commitment of funding. Member Pastucha declared this would be a crucial vote for the community and that she would vote in favor of the resolution. Member Fennell noted apprehension about the project at first but changed his mind after hearing reasons stated by fellow Board members. He remarked that improvements to the rail line would benefit the residents of his district.

The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 5 nays, with Members Elsasser, Reliford, Rieker, Rosenbohm, and Windish voting nay.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approval of August 11, 2022 County Board Meeting Minutes

Member Pastucha left the meeting.

Member Daley moved for approval of the minutes and Member Rosenbohm seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

## **III. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A proclamation recognizing September as National Emergency Preparedness Month.
- A proclamation recognizing team members of the Veteran's Assistance Commission of



Peoria County.

#### IV. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Richard Rowell addressed the Board with regard to Item 1. Mr. Rowell requested an easement to access the driveway and use the existing well attached to his property.

#### V. CONSENT AGENDA *(including reports to be filed)*

- C1.** The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of July 2022 and Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of June 2022.
- C2.** The Auditor's report of expenditures from Accounts Payable system is accessible at [www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency](http://www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency).
- C3.** A resolution (items 1-3 conveyances; item 4 surrender; items 5-7 reconveyances) from the Ways and Means Committee recommending that the County Board Chairman be authorized and directed to execute deeds of said property to the highest bidder, and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from September 8, 2022, and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.
- C4.** A resolution (items 1-2; 5 reconveyances; item 3 conveyance; item 4 surrender) from the Ways and Means Committee recommending that the County Board Chairman be authorized and directed to execute deeds of said property to the highest bidder, and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from September 8, 2022, and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.
- C5.** A resolution from your Executive Committee recommending approval to contract for media buying and advertising services on an as needed basis from a pool of pre-qualified advertising agency vendors.
- C6.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of the annual salary of the Peoria County Sheriff in the amount of \$151,008.00 effective July 1, 2022.
- C7.** An Ordinance from your Ways and Means Committee authorizing the Peoria County Treasurer to adopt a Single Bidder Rule for the Annual Tax Sale.
- C8.** A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Princeville to provide full-service animal control through December 31, 2024.
- C9.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of the lowest responsible bid of Northern Contracting, Inc., Sycamore, IL, in the amount of



\$156,703.69 for guardrail repair and installation throughout Peoria County.

**C10. Chairman Appointments.**

Member Elsasser moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Daley seconded. The Consent Agenda was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

**VI. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

1. Case #ZBA-2022-031, Petition of Linda Ramsey. A Special use as required in Section 20-5.2.2.1.a.1 of the Unified Development Ordinance. This section allows for a special use when a proposed land split does not meet the 25-acre minimum lot size nor the 1 dwelling unit per 25 contiguous acres density requirement in the "A-2" Agricultural District. The petitioner proposes to divide an existing 9.708-acre parcel into 3 parcels of approximately 1.284 acres, 1.567 acres, and 6.857 acres. The parcel is located in Chillicothe Township. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval with restriction. The Land Use Committee concurs.

Member Dillon moved to approve the ordinance and Member Fennell seconded. Member Dillon clarified that the purpose of the petition is to settle an estate and bring the property into conformance. The ordinance passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

2. Case WAV-2022-0003, Petition of Linda Ramsey. A resolution from your Land Use Committee recommending approval of a waiver of compliance from Section 20-8.3.4.1.b.2.a of the Unified Development Ordinance. This section requires a new minor subdivision to have public water supply. The petitioner is proposing to serve a 3-lot subdivision with private wells. The parcel is located in Chillicothe Township.

Member Dillon moved to approve the resolution and Member Fennell seconded. The resolution passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

**4. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

Member Blair moved to suspend the rules and Member Groves Allison seconded. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

5. A Proclamation extending the Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19 in Peoria County, Illinois.

Member Blair moved to approve the resolution and Member Fennell seconded. Member Fennell questioned how much money has been reimbursed because of this declaration. Mr. Sorrel detailed grants and funding the County has received totaling in the mid to upper \$30 million range. Member Fennell recognized that some Board members voted against this proclamation. He believed the proclamation was a good thing because the County is being reimbursed for its expenses. Chairman Rand mentioned that many grants went through the Health Department. Member Rieker asked for further explanation of the Declaration of Emergency. Mr. Sorrel summarized that local, state, and federal governments could declare a disaster declaration after a natural disaster occurs. He stated that this allows the local and state governments to access federal funds. He stressed that without the declaration, the County could not be reimbursed for expenses incurred as a result of responding to the disaster. He said COVID-19 qualifies as a public health



disaster under the Stafford Act. He conveyed that the Board would continue to vote on extending the declaration as long as the state and federal governments have the disaster declaration in place. Member Rieker thanked Mr. Sorrel for clarification. He stressed that this declaration brings in state and federal funds to help pay off expenses associated with providing related services.

Member Windish questioned who asks the County to pass this proclamation every month and why the item does not come through committee. Mr. Sorrel reported that the item does not come through committee because of the timing of the State's declaration in relation to the Board's committee structure. He clarified that the declaration is only valid for 30 days, so it must be voted on each month. He stated that staff had recommended approval of the proclamation to the Board to obtain as much reimbursement from the federal government as possible to ensure the County receives its fair share. He explained that according to the Stafford Act, the County could not receive reimbursement dollars if the declaration was not extended. Chairman Rand called attention to the resolution in the packet that lists different ways the County can be reimbursed. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 4 nays, with Members Elsasser, Reliford, Rosenbohm, and Windish voting nay.

## **VII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Member Fennell announced a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast hosted by the Chillicothe Fire Department Auxiliary on Saturday.

Member Duncan informed the Board that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away at the age of 96.

Member Williams announced that Limestone Township is hosting an electronics collection on September 28<sup>th</sup>. She said registration is required, and more information is on the website.

Chairman Rand appreciated the nature of discussion during the Executive Committee and full Board meetings.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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