

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Apr 15, 2024

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## CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the County Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by J. Larry Miller. This meeting was held in the Franklin County Courthouse, County Board Room 133, 100 Public Square, Benton, Illinois.

## ROLL CALL

Secretary, Kevin Wilson, called the roll. Members in attendance were J. Larry Miller, Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, John Gossett, Neil Hargis, Ray Minor, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston and Brad Wilson.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Kyle Bacon, County Sheriff; Ryan Buckingham, Director of Emergency Management Agency - by phone; Marty Leffler, Coroner; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer and other interested parties.

## PLEDGE

Ray Minor lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked if there is anyone who wants to make public comments?

Tom Carter: I wasn't going to speak tonight, but Angela gave me the perfect opening, money, the 1% fund. I didn't know if Chairman J. Larry Miller had a chance to look at it yet or not. On that 2.3 million that we give. I've been looking at it hard and heavy. I'm starting to get it broke down and hopefully I'll have something to present by the next meeting. It looks like we just threw away 3 million. You shake your head, but every time you keep spending 1% on lawns and other things, rather than pay this building off, you're wasting taxpayer money. Plain and simple. That's not what we voted on. We voted on the build this thing. It's built.

Quit spending it.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright, thank you. Is there anyone else that wants to make comment to the board. Yes sir.

Jeff Smith: Yeah, just want to be informed. Trying to find some comments that would help me understand a little bit more. I was told we are spending extra money this year because of our audit is now considered a high-risk audit and I was wanting somebody that could explain to me why we are a high-risk audit when we weren't in past years and that's costing us an extra, I was told hundred thousand. Is that accurate?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, I've been told that I shouldn't respond, but I'd be more than happy to explain to you what's going on. But I don't think this is appropriate. If you ask the question, I'll be glad to answer the question after the meeting. Would that be alright? Alright. Cause there is an answer. Alright, anyone else have any comments for the board? If not, we are ready to proceed with meeting.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Curtis Overton made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Regular County Board Meeting. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**COUNTY CLAIMS**

Ray Minor made a motion to pay the claims on file. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS CONTRACT - APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the approval of the Supervisor of Assessments contract. Chairman J. Larry Miller informed the County Board that you have that in front of you and I would entertain a motion to approve that motion or that contract discussion amendment.

Ray Minor: Did we, the discussion on the two amendments?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Stated we're good.

Ray Minor: We're good with all that?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: All that's correct.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the contract Supervisor of Assessment. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said contract is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-04.

**ANIMAL CONTROL  
SUPERVISOR CONTRACT  
- APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the contract for the Animal Control Supervisor. Chairman J. Larry Miller stated everyone has that in front of you also.

Bobbie Williams: Could I see the contract?

John Gossett: I'll make the motion.

Angela Evans: Can Bobbie see the contract?

John Gossett: Well, it wouldn't matter.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yeah, it wouldn't matter.

John Gossett made a motion that we approve the contract for Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor as set before you. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes except Angela Evans voted no.

Said contract is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-05.

COUNTY CORONER -  
SALARY 4 YEAR TERM  
ADJUSTMENTS -  
APPROVAL

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the salary for the four-year term for the Franklin County Coroner. And that's per state law. We have to do that six month before, I think before you take office, I believe it is. So, we are voting on a contract on terms for the coroner in the next four years. And you have that also before you, are there anyone who wants to make a motion?

Ray Minor: I make a motion to approve the salary four-year term for the county coroner.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Is there a second to that?

Neil Hargis: I'll second.

Marty Leffler: Can I ask what it is?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yeah, I think that is appropriate. And Marty, the reason I did not contact you, because in the past when we had had approved that, I don't think I went to any of the officials and told 'me what it was. We just had that and that we weren't dealing with individuals. We were dealing with a term which is kind of an unknown. So, I think help me here 2%, 2%, 3% and 3%. Okay. Alright. Any other?

Dave Bartoni: I think that still keeps our coroner kind of low. I would like to see; I mean he hasn't had a raise in several years. He saved the county a lot of money and extras that he's done storage at his facility. As he said, right now he's got a body in his cooler at his funeral home, no charge to the county. I would like to see a lump sum raise his first year and then continue the percentages after that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, I would say, Mr. Bartoni the floor is open. You can make an amendment to the motion.

Dave Bartoni: I would like to see a \$3,000 raise the first year.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: So am I correct you're saying you're moving to amend the motion to begin the base salary, \$3,000 higher than it is now, which would be \$39,579. And you build off of that.

Dave Bartoni: And then it goes 2% off of that next year. 3% in 26 and 3% in 27.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: 2, 2, 3, 3.

Dave Bartoni: No, just one lump sum, then two, three, three.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Okay. Gotcha, gotcha. Does everybody understand?

Ray Minor: Is that lump sum raises, then considerably more than a 2%?

John Gossett: Yeah. I've got it here Ray.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Wait, I need a second to this amendment before we discuss it.

Angela Evans: I'll second.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Second by Angela. Now we're ready to discuss it.

John Gossett: Ray, what I did was, I took 2% each year and it came out too little over \$3,000. Got one every year we took a little over \$3,000. So, what he's done is just basically round it off. I sent everybody a text to that effect at some point, you should get it. Okay. I don't know if you want to do this. We were doing this for the office. Marty may or may not win it. So, I understand. I don't know. We're paying him back for past services. You aren't able to see just something add could.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: So, give me your numbers though. On December 1, 24, what would that You're raising it \$3,000 to \$40,000? No. You're raising it to \$39,579.

Angela Evans: Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. So, I want everybody to understand what we're doing.

Brad Wilson: Can I ask this question? What is that percentage? Because we got to be careful. We can't, we cannot go over. We need to space that out then. Because if we go over 6%, we're going pay that penalty, there will be a penalty on that.

Dave Bartoni: Is that elected officials as well?

Brad Wilson: That's because you pay IMRF, part of your salary goes into IMRF. So, we'll take the penalty. So, we need to stay below the six and then we can get him up to where he was going to be. But if we go over six the first year, we will have to pay a penalty on that.

Marty Leffler: How much? A couple years ago, everybody got a raise.

Brad Wilson: I don't know if they went over six, or not.

Marty Leffler: That was when everybody said, we have to remember when his term comes due. We were in the basement of the Campbell building.

John Gossett: That \$3,000, at least 80%. So that's how high we are above it.

Brad Wilson: Well, I mean I don't know what the penalty is on that.

Dave Bartoni: But I don't know if anybody can tell you what the penalty is until it is passed. I asked that question years ago when they said they can't tell you what the penalty is until IMRF calculates it.

Brad Wilson: I'm with you. I want to get to the same dollar amount, but if there's a way that if we can go five and five, you see what I'm saying? And stay under that penalty. Let's get it there.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: A 6% increase. The first year would be \$38,773.78. So, what were you shooting for, wasn't it Dave?

Dave Bartoni: 6% would be...

Chairman J. Larry Miller: \$38,773.78

Dave Bartoni: Then that's only \$800 less than what I proposed.

John Gossett: We wouldn't be able to give him that 2% first year though.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, that's not, and his motion was not doing that. He was giving him the increase the first year then 2%, 3%, 3%, right.

Dave Bartoni: Yeah. But I didn't take into consideration what Mr. Brad Wilson said about 6%.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. We have a motion on the floor. Guys, I got to deal with this.

Dave Bartoni: We're going to have to vote on the motion we got on the floor.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Determine how you want to vote and we're ready to vote at this point. Everybody clear?

Brad Wilson: We're going to change it then we need to vote no on this.

Angela Evans: Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. So ready for a roll call on this, okay. Alright. We need a roll call.

Kevin Wilson: Dave Bartoni. No. Angela Evans? No. John Gossett? No. Neil Hargis? No. Ray Minor? No. Curtis Overton? No. Kevin Weston? No. Brad Wilson? No. Chairman J. Larry Miller? No.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Now to get where we you want to be and not to be above the 6% level. My figures show that it would be \$38,773,78. Are you making the motion in Mr. Baroni to amend the motion? The main motion to begin the first year on December 1st, 2024 at a salary of \$38,773.78 cents.

Dave Bartoni: Which would be a 6% increase over current.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes.

Dave Bartoni: That is my motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: And then the years following, the three years following 2%, 3%. 3%. Is that correct Mr. Bartoni, it's your motion?

John Gossett: I do take this one out.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We need, do we have a motion Mr. Bartoni?

Dave Bartoni: That is my motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright. Is there a second for that motion?



Brad Wilson: I'll second that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Mr. Wilson. Second. For the motion is that the first year his base salary would be without the 2% \$38,773 78 cents. And then the following three years, the first year would be beginning December 1st, 2025 would be 2%. The third year would be 3%. And the fourth year, 3%. Okay. Yes. We have a motion. Motion to amend the main, motion [00:19:30] is there. We got first and second. Are we ready to motion? Yes. Let's do it. Roll call.

Kevin Wilson: Dave Bartoni. Yes. Angela Evans. Yes. John Gossett. Yes. Neil Hargis. Yes. Ray Minor. Yes. Curtis Overton. Yes. Kevin Weston. Yes. Brad Wilson. Yes. Chairman J. Larry Miller. Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Right now, we're back to the main motion. What we have is why I just stated on the first year the salary would be \$39,579. Oh no, I'm sorry. \$38,773.78. And then each year, the following three years be 2%, the following year. 3%. 3%. Right. And we're back to the main motion. Are we ready to vote?

John Gossett: I'm just confused.

Brad Wilson: I thought we just voted on. We just voted on it.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We voted to amend the main motion. Now we're coming back to the main. We're basically voting on the same thing. But we've got the amendment. The main motion was to do what we got by here.

Angela Evans: Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We've amended it now to what we just said. So, we're basically voting the same way again.

Brad Wilson: Do you have to do that; do you have to? It makes no sense.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes, it does promise you. We got an amendment. We had an amendment. We've had one fail and then we passed another one to make. Yes. I'll take the responsibility.

Ray Minor: I'll make a motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: No, we never. We got a motion. We got a motion. Amend. Amend. We have a main motion. You'll look at Robert's rules of order. You have a made motion. You can amend the motion. And that's what we did. First time it failed. Second time we amended it, it passed. Now we go back to the main motion and approve that motion. Yes sir. Yes, we did. We had a motion on the main motion.

Angela Evans: On the main motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: And we first and seconded and then there was an amendment. It failed. We had a vote. Then we had another motion and it passed. Now we're going back to the main motion, which is amended at the numbers that we set. Basically, we are voting on the original. The one we just voted on this past is basically what motion says. So that's Robert's rules of order. Important. Alright. Okay. Now sir, will you do a roll call on the main motion. Now everybody clear? I don't want, we are the main motion states that the first year, December 1st, 2024 for the Coroner will be \$38,773.78 cents. The second year on 2025, December one will be a 2% increase on that number. The next year there will be a 3% increase on the number plus the 2% you see. And then the fourth year will be the 3% increase where that's at and that will be the final year.

ANIMAL CONTROL -  
QUOTE FOR HVAC -  
APPROVAL

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a quote for the HVAC at the Animal Control Department and he stated that this needs to be tabled at this time.

Kevin Wilson: Okay. Dave Barton. Yes. Angela Evans. Yes. John Gosselt. Yes. Neil Hargis. Yes. Ray Minor. Yes. Curtis Overton. Yes. Kevin Weston. Here. Brad Wilson. Yes. Chairman J. Larry Miller. Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We've got it. We're back to the main motion that we originally had.

Kevin Wilson: And then who's made the motion for what you just stated?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay.

Kevin Wilson: I have that. I have that.

Ray Minor: Originally, I asked for the first motion. I don't know who second.

Kevin Wilson: And who has that motion?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes. We're back to the main motion though that we got to deal with the main motion. So, we needed a roll call on the main motion, which is just what we approved on the amendment.

Kevin Wilson: So, it's a second amendment, what you just explained.

**COUNTY JAIL PROJECT  
- REPAIR 250' OF  
STORM SEWER LINE -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Middle Fork Creek Excavating Company to repair first 250 feet of the storm sewer line at Franklin County Jail Project. And you have those amounts. \$19,750. And what was the other amount too? There was an addition to that.

Kevin Weston: We not going to vote on that. Be paid for by us. By us.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: This \$19,750 is going to be paid by us too.

Kevin Weston: We're, the highway department's going to buy the pipe at a lower rate? At a lower price.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: But okay, so you want us to approve the motion to have Middle Fork Creek Excavating Company installed this at \$19,750. We have a motion to that effect.

Kevin Weston: Right. And I will explain one thing that Donnie...

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Can we get a motion first?

Kevin Weston: I'll make the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Mr. Weston makes a motion is there a second to that?

Curtis Overton: I'll second that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Second by Mr. Overton. Now you may speak sir. Sorry about that.

Kevin Weston: I really think that this was working. Me and the Sheriff and Matt and Donnie all got together on this. We got with Benton and we had a problem we had to fix. But it took a team

effort to get this working together to put this to where we could live with it at the lowest rate you possibly can. And so, I mean, I respect everybody working together as a team to get this done. And I wanted to say that when Kyle was here, but I knew he had to get out of here. But we all sat down at the Sheriff's office and worked on this.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. So, we, we've got a motion on the floor. I'm going to ask you a question. So, are we going to have to make a motion tonight on the other \$9,000?

Kevin Weston: We can do that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay.

Kevin Weston: We will buy it. But it is going to be bought with our, the length of pipe we will buy and I'll bring it to you. Hopefully after our bid letting. So, we'll know a little bit more about what we offer.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: And this money is going to come out of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)?

Kevin Weston: Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Everyone clear on the motion? Alright, we're ready to vote.

Kevin Wilson: Dave Bartoni. Yes. Angela Evans. Yes. John Gossett. Yes. Neil Hargis. Yes. Ray Minor? Yes. Curtis Overton. Yes. Kevin Weston. Yes. Brad Wilson. Yes. Chairman J. Larry Miller? Yes.

**ELKVILLE BLACKTOP  
SECTION  
21-00190-00-RS -  
RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution for improvement for Elkville Blacktop, Section 21-00190-00-RS in the amount of \$500,000 need a motion for approval.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the improvement for Elkville Blacktop, Section 21-00190-00-RS as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2024-22.

**JOINT FUNDING  
AGREEMENT FOR MINE  
21 ROAD, SECTION  
23-00193-00-RS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the joint funding agreement for Mine 21 Road, Section 23-00193-00-RS is there a motion for approval?

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the joint funding agreement for Mine 21 Road. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-06.

**FEDERAL AID MATCHING  
FUNDS FOR THE COUNTY  
PORTION OF MINE 21  
ROAD SECTION  
23-00193-00-RS -  
RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution to use \$168,000 of Federal Aid Matching Funds for the county portion of Mine 21 Road.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2024-23.

**AGREEMENT WITH ROUND  
TABLE DESIGN FOR  
BRIDGE ON JORDAN  
CREEK ROAD SECTION  
21-02138-00-BR**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Local Public Agency Engineering Services agreement for \$29,300 to Round Table Design for a bridge on Jordan Creek Road in Benton Township. And anyone make a motion to approve this agreement?

John Gossett made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. David Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-07.

**CAVE-EASTERN FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the first one is for Cave Eastern Fire Protection District Board. One appointment to reappoint Lance Darnell to another three year term ending May 3, 2027.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve Lance Darnell being reappointed to the Cave-Eastern Fire Protection District Board for another three year term ending May 3, 2027. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**CORINTH WATER  
DISTRICT - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Corinth Water District reappointing Jim Kerley for another five year term ending May 7, 2029.

Kevin Weston made a motion to reappoint Jim Kerley to the Corinth Water District board as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**EWING-NORTHERN FIRE  
PROTECTION BOARD - 2  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Ewing Northern Fire Protection Board and he read a resignation from David Goss, who has served on this board since the board was created in November, 1991. I want to recommend appointing Mitch Bennett to replace David Goss and fill his unexpired term ending May 4, 2026. Also Chairman J. Larry Miller read a letter from David

Wilson wishing to be reappointed to another three year term ending May 3, 2027.

Brad Wilson made a motion to appoint Mitch Bennett to fill David Goss's term and to reappoint David Wilson as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said letters are made a part of these minutes.

**HILL CITY WATER  
DISTRICT - 2  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two reappointments to the Hill City Water District Board. Chairman J. Larry Miller read two letters from Paul Leffler, Chairman of Board for the Hill City Water District requesting to reappoint Sharon Moore and Lyndell Minor Sr. for another five year term ending April 30, 2029.

Brad Wilson made a motion to reappoint Sharon Moore and Lyndell Minor Sr. to the Hill City Water District Board as presented. Curtis Overton seconded that motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said letters are made a part of these minutes.

**PLUMFIELD WATER  
DISTRICT - 2  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two appointments to the Plumfield Water District. Marty Gayer and Andy Chismar needs to be reappointed to another four year term ending May 1, 2028.

Angela Evans made a motion to reappoint Marty Gayer and Andy Chismar to the Plumfield Water District as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.



**SESSER FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD - 2  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two reappointments to the Sesser Fire Protection District. Angela Evans and Rick Dennison needs to be reappointed to another three year term ending April 30, 2027.

Curtis Overton made a motion to reappoint Angela Evans and Rick Dennison to the Sesser Fire Protection District Board as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes except Angela Evans abstained.

**COUNTY CLERK,  
SHERIFF & CORONER  
MONTHLY REPORTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda are the March, 2024 monthly reports from the County Clerk, Sheriff and Coroner reports.

Kevin Weston made motion to approve the reports as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

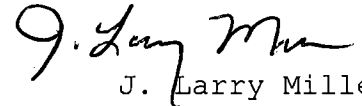
**CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda is a closed session and he stated that a closed session is not needed at this time.

**RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the Board if there were any questions. Brad Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. There being no further business Chairman J. Larry Miller declared the meeting adjourned.



J. Larry Miller  
Franklin County Board Chairman



Kevin Wilson  
County Clerk and Recorder