

DATE: April 1, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY
(Sheriff's Office, Juvenile Detention Center, EMA, Animal Control,
Waste Management, Bi-County Health Board, 911/Emergency Services, Animal Control)
DECEMBER, 2023 THRU NOVEMBER, 2024
FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH

Franklin County Board Committee meetings and Franklin County Board meetings are held at the Franklin County Board Room, Franklin County Courthouse, 100 Public Square, Benton, Illinois.

COMMITTEEMEN:

- (x) John Gossett – Chairman
- (x) Angela Evans
- (x) Neil Hargis - EMA
- (x) Larry Miller – County Board Chairman
- (x) Ray Minor – 911/Emergency Services
- (x) Curtis Overton
- (x) David Bartoni
- (x) Kevin Weston
- (x) Brad Wilson – Juvenile Detention Center

9County Offices

- () Amos Abbott, Director 911
- (x) Kyle Bacon, Sheriff
- (x) Matt Barnett, County Engineer
- (x) Ryan Buckingham, Director EMA (Phone)
- () Abigail Dinn
- () Darla Fitzgerrell, Court Services
- (x) Marty Leffler, Coroner
- () Lorie LeQuatte, ROE
- (x) Cynthia Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments
- () Judge Melissa Morgan
- (x) Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk
- (x) Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager
- () Monica Urban, Probation
- () Steve Vercellino, Treasurer
- () Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor
- () Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (Public Comments), Tom Carter (Questions about the cost of the audits last year and who is doing our audit for 2023) Jeff Johnson (Concerned about numerous problems with the latest audit), Rocky Morris (Bond certificate and loans for the Courthouse) John Aaron Gulley (Taylor Pensoneau Talks), Dwayne Williams, Steve Vercellino and other interested parties that attended.

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending and those with public comments and the (topics of their comments).

Chairman Gossett asked for any reports or information...

Coroner Marty Leffler Update on the Coroner's Office...

- Will be going 100% on getting the office done.
- Sanding and painting areas were not as liked, so that part is being redone.
- He has been ordering autopsy supplies with his funding.
- Ameren has been to the building and will be running gas lines.
- Also submitted his March report and the full report can be seen on www.franklincountyil.gov as 04-01-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 1.

Sheriff Kyle Bacon....

- Told the board his office has also been in contact with Rice Sullivan LLC and they have agreed to do the audit for the Sheriff's office also. It is needed before the annual jail inspection which will be coming up in April.
- He also gave his monthly report and the full report can be seen on www.franklincountyil.gov as 04-01-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 2.
- Also updated the board about the City of Benton's event prior to the eclipse. The state had denied the request to have the square shut off on April 6th. City of Benton has moved the event to the parking lot on the north-east side of the square.

EMA Director Ryan Buckingham...(PHONE)...

- Spoke about his department's part in the upcoming Eclipse.
- The Plan on how to handle the influx of people will be finished in a few days.
- It was decided to close county buildings on Eclipse day.

Chairman Larry Miller...Began the conversation concerning illegal immigrants possible coming into Franklin County...

- Sheriff Bacon explained his concerns with families being in need and how to take care of them until they can be taken to another area in the state that does have more space and financial plans in place.
- County Board Member Angela Evans does not want to use county money for food, shelter, medical problems.
- Discussion followed with no resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM

Minutes submitted 04/11/2024

John Gossett – Public Safety Committee

DATE: April 15, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY
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- (x) Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (Public Comments), Rocky Morris (questions/comments concerning immigration) Jeff Johnson (Concern about High-Risk Audit), Michael Blissenbach, Rita Blissenbach, Steve Vercellino, Liz Greenwood-Allen and other interested parties that attended.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending and those with public comments and the (topics of their comments).

Chairman Gossett asked for any reports or information...

Sheriff Kyle Bacon....

- Has been getting several calls and contacts concerning the Juvenile Detention Center.
- Cleaning is going on at the JDC by Darla Fitzgerrell and Debra Mitchell.
- He has been contacted by the Governor's office to see the building.
- Most of the interest for the building is related to mental health.

Coroner Marty Leffler Update on the Coroner's Office...

- 2/3 of the flooring is now down.
- All lighting is done.
- Still needs the gas line for the generator to be finished.
- The generator will be used for the whole building.
- He mentioned that the Coroner's salary is on the agenda that evening and has to be determined several months before the upcoming election.

EMA Director Ryan Buckingham...(PHONE)...

- Budget for Central Dispatch is in process.
- Asked about the process for opening the bids.

Chairman Larry Miller...

- Mentioned Ewing – Northern Fire Protection District Decennial Efficiency Committee.
- Several appointments he would be filling at the following County Board meeting.
- Discussion was again had concerning illegal immigrants. Several different opinions were given.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM

Minutes submitted 05/02/2024

John Gossett – Public Safety Committee