

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AT

5:00 PM

MINUTES OF MEETING

Apr 22, 2024

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Special Meeting of the County Board, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman 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, Curtis Overton, and Kevin Weston. Ray Minor and Brad Wilson were absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor; and other interested parties.

## **PLEDGE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked if there were any public comment. Anyone have any comments you want to make? Alright, seeing none.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller informed everyone that the purpose of this meeting is to 1). Amend Animal Control Contract; 2). Approve Lawn Care for Courthouse; 3). Approve Lawn Care for Sheriff's Office, Justice Center, Juvenile Detention Center, Emergency Management Agency Office, and Storage Building; and 4). Approve Bid for Animal Control HVAC.

**AMEND ANIMAL CONTROL  
CONTRACT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is to amend the animal control contract. The reason we got to do that is, is that we did catch this until the next day that the beginning of the contract was December 1st, 2023 and it said 2024. So, it made everything off and Bobbie Williams is not on contract now. So, this will be retro back to 2023, which is exactly what we did also with Cindy Miklos with her contract. But it was just that, excuse me, those dates that they were on. Okay. You have it in front of you. So, we need a motion to approve the contract for the Animal Control Supervisor.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the amended contract for the Animal Control Supervisor as presented. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said contract is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-08 which is amending the previous contract Agreement No. 2024-05 approved at the April 15, 2024 Regular County Board meeting.

**LAWN CARE OF  
COURTHOUSE -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for lawn care for the courthouse.

Kevin Weston: We have not got a bid separately, except from American Lawn Care for mowing the courthouse. They gave us a bid for everything and a check for the courthouse. The other company that provided one is Beggs, did not provide lawn care for an estimate for the courthouse and Meyers did. But they said that if they did not get the whole county mowing, that they would not mow the courthouse. So, I'd like to basically get permission to see if I can get American to just mow the courthouse for \$125.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: They didn't have a bid for water?

Kevin Weston: No.

David Bartoni: What was Begg's mowing the courthouse for?

Kevin Weston: He did not submit, if you look on your sheet, he submitted juvenile detention center, EMA, sheriff's office, state's attorney and the storage building.

John Gossett: What kind of prices would you give this to them?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Three 20 for all.

Kevin Weston: I'll discuss the total on here, but right now Beggs is the cheapest on the county.

Dave Bartoni: But does he not wish to mow the courthouse any longer?

Kevin Weston: He did not submit a bid. I don't know why.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, we don't have any motion on the floor, Dave, but these guys are saying, look, more than this is different than everything else. They got to have a push mower. They got to bag it, they got to put it in the trash, they got to weed it around it and the watering also is an issue. It's just not a deal.

John Gossett: I have a question. Can we not give him permission to go up to \$200 to find somebody to do this and get you done with it?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I think we can.

John Gossett: That way I make a motion do that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I guess we can. Alright, we're dealing with the courthouse here. This is what's on the agenda. What do you... So, you want to make a motion. Motion gets for \$200 to get the lawn mowed and watered.

John Gossett: That'd be good.

Angela Evans: Yeah.

Kevin Weston: So just give me to where I can negotiate.

John Gossett: Don't you think 200 should cover it. If you get it less, that's great. I make a motion that we allow Kevin Weston to find a mower for the courthouse for up to 200 bucks. Curtis Overton seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Any discussion on it?

Angela Evans: So, the mower, that'll be the mower that stays here, right? It'll be back and all we do is put a body behind it.

Kevin Weston: I had talked to one company and they didn't submit a bid, but they were going to buy a mower, electric mower to do it with a bag, but they didn't submit. But if we have to buy a Stihl mower, electric mower where we can bag it and they can use it. I was trying to talk our janitor do it and he had some interest. Okay. He's here.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

John Gossett: Yes. From me, Kevin, what you're saying is we need to broaden this in order to cover the lawn mower, if you need one.

Kevin Weston: No, I talked earlier about maybe buying, purchasing a lawnmower at our previous meeting and I gave you the prices of Stihl lawnmower, so I think we approved it then. But I was trying to get somebody to bring their own mower up here. Save up the cost. I got we, I'm still working on If I can save a dollar I will.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Let's get this motion. Let's get somebody watering please. We have a motion a second. Let's vote. Motion. This is \$200 Per mow. All of these you've got is a per mowing.

Angela Evans: So was you making a motion to buy a mower?

Kevin Wilson: Purely mowing only and no water, right?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes. Mowing and water.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**LAWN CARE FOR  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE,  
JUSTICE CENTER,  
JUVENILE DETENTION  
CENTER, EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
OFFICE & STORAGE  
BUILDING**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for lawn care for the Sheriff's office, Justice Center, Juvenile Detention Center, Emergency Management Agency office and the storage building. We have those for you. Kevin, you want to speak to that?

Kevin Weston: Yeah. American Lawn mowing and snow removal gave us a bid of basically \$530 or \$405 just to mow all of our parcels except for the courthouse. Beggs gave us a \$320 per mow for juvenile detention center, EMA, Sheriff's office, state's attorney and storage building and then Meyer's Lawn Care \$860 for everything. So cheapest submitted bid is Beggs Lawn Care, that's who has been doing our mowing currently. I'm very comfortable with 'em, but I just wanted to make sure that we were getting the best deal we could by looking for other companies. So, I recommend we go with Beggs.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Make a motion?

Kevin Weston: Well, I'm just recommending.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay.

Neil Hargis made a motion to accept Kevin Weston's recommendation to hire Beggs Lawn Care from Mulkeytown to mow the County's offices for \$320 per mow. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said bid estimates are made a part of these minutes.

**BID FOR ANIMAL  
CONTROL HVAC -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval HVAC bid for the HVAC with handling control.

Kevin Weston: Okay. We're replacing the whole HVAC system. Okay. Because that's what you wanted to do at the last meeting. We have a bid from Dwyer Heating and Air out of Marion for a Bosch five-ton 15 SEER unit air conditioning and heat. It's a heat pump. The higher your S-E-E-R-R value seasonal voltage, it's called seasonal energy efficiency rating. The higher it is, the more efficient they are. That was a 15 SEER for 11,000. D and C heating out of Marion gave us a bid for a comfort maker, 15 SEER five-ton unit for \$10,031 and the basically Reed Heating and Air, which is Air Serve here in Benton. They gave us a bid on a five ton energy efficient multisystem with a 14 SEER heat pump. 15-ton, five ton, I mean \$7,500. So that's our low bid. It's just not quite as efficient and I could not, I called three times today trying to get what the manufacturer was. Dwyer was a Bosch. The D and C was a comfort maker and this, I don't know what the manufacturer is, but it is \$3,000 less so you guys can decide what you'd like to do.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: The thing I ask is where's those funds coming from? Where do they come from? Lemme tell you. I would like to see us do it out of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). I tell you why. I was looking through some stuff since May of 22. We had collected \$250,000 worth of interest in the fund. That's money that we didn't have. This is 7,500 bucks. Do what you want.

Kevin Weston: I was planning on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act); I mean what we're trying to do is the unit there is 20 years old. I mean, what we've been doing is improving our infrastructure and lowering our energy bills. So hopefully so this is just part of making all our facilities last for another 20 years.

John Gossett: So, you're comfortable with taking this Reed unit, not knowing the brand? You okay with that knowing?

Kevin Weston: If I was personally, if it was me personally, I'd want to know the brand. But they have done a lot of our work and I'm comfortable with Sean putting in a good unit for us. I don't think they would, it's a 10-year warranty on it.

Dave Bartoni: He done my son's house and my mother-in-Law's house. They do good work.

Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor: They're always out there and whatever needed, I call every time.

Kevin Weston: Like I said, I'm comfortable. I've got a Bosch unit at home.

Dave Bartoni: The only thing I see, the only thing I don't see is from Dwyer and D and C I see on auxiliary heating source and I don't see that on Reeds. I'm sure it's got one.

Kevin Weston: What they do on a heat pump is they basically have heat strips inside. Yeah. So, once it gets down below the temperature that the heat pumps not going to be able to supply heat that I would like thing, but I'm sure that's part of it. Any heat pump would have that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Got a motion for anybody?

Kevin Weston: I'll make a motion to do it. I probably shouldn't. Trying to move forward. Angela Evans seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated out of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Any discussion? If not, we are ready to vote.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said estimates are made a part of these minutes.

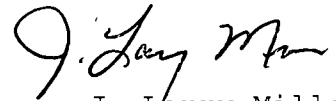
**CLOSED SESSION**

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.

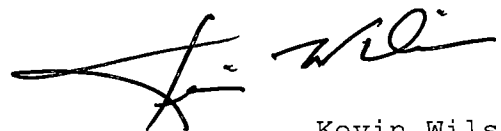
**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the Board if there were any questions. Angela Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Curtis Overton 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