

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Aug 19, 2024

### 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; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Lori LeQuatte, Franklin-Johnson-Massac-Williamson Regional Superintendent; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; 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? No comments at this time.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2024 Regular County Board Meeting and August 5, 2024 Special County Board Meeting. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

### COUNTY CLAIMS

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

**PROPOSED HSG  
MECHANICAL -  
AGREEMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the agreement proposed by HSG Mechanical and would anyone make a motion to approve that agreement.

Kevin Weston made a motion. It is \$6,000 a year for preventive maintenance, \$1,500 a quarter. That will be up on the roof to the rooftop units. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement proposed is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-19.

**HONEYWELL  
MAINTENANCE -  
AGREEMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Honeywell Maintenance agreement. Is there a motion to approve the agreement?

John Gossett made a motion to table this for Honeywell Maintenance agreement.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I am going to let; we really cannot have a discussion. I will let you respond.

Kevin Weston: I will respond. I have been working with Honeywell and I know they are going to call and ask if we have approved the maintenance agreement and I really think I need to be able to tell them that we voted against the maintenance agreement rather than it was tabled, but that is just, it makes for a better situation dealing with Honeywell being a large corporation.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: What needs to be done is Mr. Gossett be asked to say he would back off his motion is what we need.

John Gossett: I will back off my motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay, so our slate is clean now. Will someone make a motion on the agreement?

Kevin Weston: I would like to put the agreement up for a vote. Alright.

Brad Wilson seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: To approve the agreements. What your doing is your second, the motion. Now is there any discussion? From what I understand Mr. Weston is recommending that we vote no on this, there is a reason for that and that clears the table. Alright, so has anybody got any discussion? If not, let us vote.

On roll call vote, all voted no.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR  
ANNUAL PAYMENT ON  
CELLEBRITE - APPROVE  
OPIOID FUND REQUEST**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Opioid Fund request for the Sheriff's office for annual payment on the Cellebrite. That is what the, is that the one that gets all the information off the phones? Cellebrite presented a quote of \$9,700.00 for the period August 24, 2024 thru August 23, 2025.

Dave Bartoni: Yeah, it is for downloading and the return information off the cell phones.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright, do we have a motion to approve that?

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the opioid fund request as presented. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said quote is made a part of these minutes.

**PAYMENT FOR OUR K-9  
TEAM TREATMENTS &  
APPOINTMENTS -  
APPROVE OPIOID FUND  
REQUEST**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Opioid Fund request payment for Riot's Heartworm treatment prior appointments and any future treatments of our K-9 team. Alright. Healthcare. Put it that way. Sheriff Kyle Bacon presented a list of treatments and the costs totaling \$2,304.25 at this time. Is there a motion to do that all?

Curtis Overton made the motion to approve the Opioid Fund request payment as presented. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said list of treatments & costs is made a part of these minutes.

**JANITORIAL  
SUPERVISOR - APPROVE  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval appointment for the janitorial supervisor and presented a document with the terms & conditions. Is there a motion to do that? I think that we need to identify clearly the terms of that in the motion.

John Gossett: The terms will be identified, right before you, you have a copy of it. I make a motion to employ Tonya Johnson. Wages \$20 an hour and that's 80 hours in a two-pay period. Did you not get that?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I do not have that.

Angela Evans: I do not have it.

Kevin Weston: The only thing I question is I think most of our employees only work 36 hours per week.

John Gossett: They work 35.

Kevin Weston: Why would we have ours?

John Gossett: Because this lady is going to be supervising and doing her job and if you take an hour a day away, I do not think she can even get it done. The way it will work is, she will take 20 minutes, eat a sandwich, and go, that is why I think she is entitled as opposed to 35.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Do I have to second on a motion?

Curtis Overton: I will second.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I have got a question. And two months ago, we offered to hire an individual to solve this problem that we have had. We had that individual at 36 hours a week. There were questions, many questions why we were paying \$20 an hour. And tonight, we are going to do the exact same thing. I would like for somebody to explain to me why we are here on, I mean, I am going to vote for this, because we have got to move ahead. This county has to solve our problem with a janitor service. Okay. We got to do it. I am not going to vote against this, but I want to know why. Why? And \$20 an hour was too much two months ago and we were offering a job 36 hours two months ago. Why that is?

Curtis Overton: May I address that?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes.

Curtis Overton: The \$20 an hour two months ago, I do not think anybody objected to, I know I did not. My only objection was, we did not go have a hiring process. We had implemented, we had not run an ad on the job so that the public, at large, was aware that the government job was available. I do not think the \$20 an hour was an issue with anybody that I remember. And we have now gone through that process as we should and chosen a candidate. Had the former candidate applied for the job, I would have been fine with her getting it if she interviewed well and all of that. So, it is nothing against the person that was being discussed before. It was just a method of how we are going about it. And I think that has been addressed by the interview process and everybody that is out job hunting was if they were job hunting diligently, they were aware we were hiring somebody. So, I think we have done it right currently.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, previously, I believe that I was told by this group, this board, that we needed to get this done and I was told to

proceed with the individual that we had and that is my frustration. But I still ask the question. We are spending more now than we were then. Well, this, it does not seem consistent to me.

John Gossett: Mr. Chair, this is under 42,000 a year. We figure out it is not like this person is getting rich and they are going to be doing many things.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I agree with you. So, I agree with you, but the problem was it was a problem before.

Brad Wilson: Do we have anybody, within the county, that currently works for the county applied for the position?

John Gossett: Yes, we did.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any discussion on the motion? If not, we are ready to vote.

On roll call vote, the voting was as follows: Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, John Gossett, Curtis Overton, and Chairman J. Larry Miller voted yes and Neil Hargis, Ray Minor, Kevin Weston and Brad Wilson voted no. Motion approved 5 yes and 4 nos.

Said document with the terms & conditions for Tonya Johnson is made a part of these minutes.

**ELECTRICAL UPDATE &  
CLEARWAVE PHONE  
SYSTEM UPDATE TO BE  
INSTALLED AT JUSTICE  
CENTER - APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the electrical update with ClearWave phone system being installed at the Justice Center. Mr. Weston has presented that to us previously. The estimate from Loyd Electric & Ag Supply LLC from Sesser is \$5,178.00 and the total from Clearwave Fiber from Harrisburg is \$755.71. Is there a motion to do that?

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the electrical update with Clearwave as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We need to be clear on where that money is going to come from. We want to do that through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), \$5,000. Angela, you made a motion? Is that all right with you?

Angela Evans: Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any other discussion on the motion? If not, we are ready to vote. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said estimates are made a part of these minutes.

**VARIANCE ON ACREAGE  
FOR BRICE PONTIOUS -  
REQUEST APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the variance for Brice Pontious requesting to split out 1.4 acres instead of the minimum of 2 acres. Is that what we want to do tonight on the plat that we have seen previously here? Is there a motion to do that?

Brad Wilson made the motion to approve the variance as presented. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT MONTH  
2024 - PROCLAMATION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Proclamation on Workforce Development for the month of September of 24. We have a young lady here that is going to make a little bit of a presentation about.

Ray Minor made the motion to approve the proclamation as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion.

Stephanie Robinson: Hello, my name is Stephanie Robinson. I am the performance and Compliance manager at Mantra-Con Corporation here in Southern Illinois. We serve Jefferson, Franklin, Williamson, Jackson, and Perry Counties. And what we do is we work for the people needing help through a grant, we help employees find employment or get retrained those people who are low income or dislocated

workers who have lost their jobs. A lot of people, our goal, is not just to get them training, go to college, pay for that. Our goal is that they get back into workforce, help those businesses in Southern Illinois. We also assist the businesses in Southern Illinois in finding employees. We can do that through workforce employment plans where we help them pay some of those wages for up to 89 days to see if that employee is going to work out for you. We also have OTJ's, what you would call on the job training programs, where we can help pay half and reimburse half of their wages while they are training.

And we also have the department worker training programs where we can help those employees that you already have who may need to upgrade their skills to avoid layoffs. So, there is a lot that we do here in Southern Illinois, but this is federal grant that we worked with the WIOA grant, the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. So, every state in the United States offers this grant. We are getting ready to go through re-authorization with the Senate and the Congress and we are just trying to prove through IWP, which is a board that I sit on for the state of Illinois. There is 22 members on that board throughout the state of Illinois to get these proclamations, to show our government officials how good it is that we can help in our areas. And I do not know if you have been paying attention, but we have created a lot of jobs in Southern Illinois in the lower 17 counties in the last year. So, workforce development is working. Those things that we are doing are really helping. DCEO is helping to get those things done. So, this proclamation is just to help the state and our government officials to know how important this grant funding is and how beneficial it is to our area.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said proclamation is made a part of these minutes.



**IMPROVEMENT UNDER  
THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY  
CODE - RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution for the improvement under the Illinois highway, code for Yellowbanks Road, section 24-00195-00-RS. This is a formality, I assume.

Dave Bartoni made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2024-32.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
HOUSING AUTHORITY -  
1 APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the appointment to the Franklin County Housing Authority, and we want to reappoint Jesse Young to that position. He is there now. And is there a motion to approve you that?

Brad Wilson made a motion to reappoint Jesse Young to the Franklin County Housing Authority for a five year term ending September 1, 2029. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
HOSPITAL BOARD - 3  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are the appointments to the Franklin County Hospital Board. There are three that are serving on that board. Renew their terms, that would be Ann Wilson and Gayla Kain and Ron Knox. Is there a motion to approve that?

Neil Hargis made a motion to reappoint Gayla Kain, Ron Knox and Ann Wilson to the Franklin County Hospital Board for three year terms ending August 31, 2027. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**REND LAKE AREA  
TOURISM COUNCIL - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the appointment to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council, we do not need to make this one to a vote, so tabled, because they are going to reconstitute that thing and next month even come and we got to approve that.

**U OF I EXTENSION  
BOARD - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the appointment to the University of Illinois Extension Board. We make one appointment to that and I recommend Parker Hutchcraft. She has been now serving on that board meets maybe two times a year, maybe just once. And she is involved in agriculture and she is the county Farm Bureau manager. So, I would like to have a motion to approve.

Ray Minor made the motion to reappoint of Parker Hutchcraft to the University of Illinois Extension Board for a year term ending August 31, 2025. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

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

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

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

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

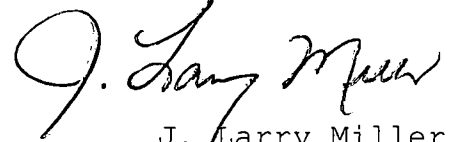
**CLOSED SESSION**

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. Neil Hargis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela Evans 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