

DATE: August 5, 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
- ( ) David Bartoni
- (x) Kevin Weston
- (x) Brad Wilson – Juvenile Detention Center

County Offices

- ( ) Amos Abbott, Director 911
- (x) Kyle Bacon, Sheriff
- (x) Matt Barnett, County Engineer
- ( ) Ryan Buckingham, Director EMA 5:21
- ( ) Abigail Dinn
- ( ) Darla Fitzgerald, Court Services
- (x) Marty Leffler, Coroner
- ( ) Lorie LeQuatte, ROE
- ( ) Cynthia Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments
- ( ) Judge Melissa Morgan
- (x) Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk
- (x) Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager
- ( ) Monica Urban, Probation
- (x) Steve Vercellino, Treasurer
- ( ) Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (and subject of those stating public comments)...Pamela Boyd/ SCT, James Wiggs, Steve Vercellino, and other interested parties that attended. No Public Comments.

The meeting was called to order at 5:43 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending and the subject of those stating public comments. Gossett then asked for any reports.

Coroner Marty Leffler...

- Open house and Ribbon Cutting will be held on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 2:00pm.
- Pathologist has looked at the facility and he is very impressed. (but we were told that we do need a garbage disposal)
- Coroner has totally moved out of the Justice Center.
- They were included in the mowing cycle this time.
- 8 bodies were stored last month in the facility.

His Monthly report can be seen on [www.franklincountyil.gov](http://www.franklincountyil.gov) as 8-5-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 1

Sheriff Kyle Bacon...

- Gave his July reports.
- His Jail Healthcare Information for June 2024 was also included.
- The above reports can be seen on [www.franklincountyil.gov](http://www.franklincountyil.gov) as 8-5-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 2.
- He also mentioned that his yearly maintenance fees are high this year. He currently has 23 cars in service, but he has had to buy used vehicles which does make maintenance higher.
- He is still working on the Healthcare and medication changes for the inmates and the county. We only have a nurse 5 days/week and a doctor/once a week. Discussion followed.
- EOC Pre Construction Meeting will be the next morning at the Sheriff's Office.
- He asked for the following to be on the next agenda... "Celebrite" – Annual Fee of \$9,700.00 to be paid by Opioid funds and is due by the end of the month. This is the item that Officer Amy Lipton was sent for training that can be used to get into computers, tablets, phones, etc, and find history on the unit. Also, requesting payment for Riot's heartworm treatment from prior appointments and any future treatments of our K-9 Team to also be paid from Opioid funds?

County Board Chairman Larry Miller informed the board that the special meeting following this meeting will be to vote on the contract and raises for State's Attorney's Clerical, Circuit Clerk's Clerical, and County Clerical. Raises for non-union clerical employees are also on the list to be approved.

Chairman Gossett...

- The ordinance concerning Off Highway Vehicles and supporting information has been sent to the State's Attorney Abby Dinn and should be ready to be on the next agenda for the August 19<sup>th</sup> County Board Meeting. The only concern was if the board wanted to stay at 21 years of age for the driver or 18 years of age? Comments were made that 18 was a better age.
- Brought up the county employees health insurance and that the county has not had quotes from other providers in quite some time. He is planning on listening to one agent next week...Snedeker Risk Management.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

Minutes submitted 08/15 /2024

John Gossett, Chairman – Public Safety Committee

DATE: August 19, 2024

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Guests (and subject of those stating public comments)...Tom Carter, Dwayne Williams, Steve Vercellino, and other interested parties that attended. No Public Comments.

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending and the subject of those stating public comments.

Chairman Gossett asked Chairman Miller to update the board on several items.

Chairman Miller...

- We have been talking about the cost of our Employee Health Insurance.
- We will be scheduling a meeting that will be held on an afternoon and will be available for the employee insurance committee to join.
- We will have someone here from Hope Trust and also from our present carrier, Randy House.
- It is planned to have this Insurance Meeting in Closed Session. Date and time to be announced.
- There has also been a lot of discussion about our Real Estate Bills and our assessments of property.
- He has been talking to Supervisor of Assessments Cindy Miklos.
- County Board Member Brad Wilson commented that properties are to be assessed every 4 years and they are not in our county.
- Miklos also explained "factors".
- Some are assessed often while some have never been re-assessed.
- County Board Member David Bartoni asked about comparable software. Miklos explained that she had looked at that but still, it is an opinion and is not totally factual.
- Miklos also mentioned all the ways that her office tries to notify the assessors about new properties and properties that have added to their assessments.
- They will be holding a meeting for all the Township Supervisors to explain how the county is losing revenue that is highly needed and could make a difference in all the taxes.
- It is being considered to hire an independent assessor to bring the assessments to a more consistent amount throughout our county. Date and time to be announced.
- It has been brought to his attention Animal Control received a really good raise, but that by changing Ryan Buckingham's compensation as we did in July, he received quite less than did all the other employees. We will need to correct that as soon as we can to the same 3 year raises...4.5%. 4.75%, 5.00% as the other employees.

Chairman Gossett...

- Buckingham is now at home!!
- The OHV ordinance will not be on the agenda. Since all the county roads listed for this ordinance have speed limits over 35 mph, the ordinance would be contrary to Illinois law

Gossett said that, on our following County Board Meeting agenda, we will be hiring a Janitorial Supervisor for the Campbell Building and the Justice Center. This supervisor will also be cleaning the Sheriff's Office and will also cover the future EOC.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM

Minutes submitted 08/29 /2024

John Gossett, Chairman – Public Safety Committee