

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jan 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the County Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Neil Hargis. 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 Neil Hargis, Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, J. Larry Miller, Ray Minor, Curtis Overton, and Kevin Weston. John Gossett and Brad Wilson were absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Amos Abbott, E-911 Director; Kyle Bacon, County Sheriff; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Ryan Buckingham, Director of Emergency Management Agency - by phone; Marty Leffler, County Coroner; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE

Curtis Overton lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Neil Hargis asked if there is anyone who wants to make public comments? No one had any comments at this time.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2024 Regular County Board Meeting. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

Curtis Overton made a motion to pay the claims on file. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**DELINQUENT TAX
RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the first item on the agenda is the Delinquent Tax Program resolutions regarding authorizing my signature (Neil Hargis) to execute deeds on the parcels sold thru the County's Delinquent Tax Program.

Ray Minor made a motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-01 thru 2025-19.

**AUDITING FIRM FOR
FY2024 COUNTY WIDE
AUDIT - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Auditing Firm for FY2024 County Wide Audit and I am recommending Rice Sullivan, do we have a motion?

Kevin Weston: I will make motion to hire Rice and Sullivan, LLC to be our county auditor for 2025.

Curtis Overton: I'll second that motion.

Kevin Weston: 2024 fiscal year I am sorry.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Any questions?

J. Larry Miller: Is their price \$150,000.00?

Dave Bartoni: The other firm was how much?

Chairman Neil Hargis: The other one, first year, \$159,000.00. Any other questions? Okay. Please call roll.

On roll call vote, all voted yes except J. Larry Miller voted no.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-01.

GILBERT, HUFFMAN,
PROSSER, HEWSON &
BARKE LTD ATTORNEY -
CLIENT FEE CONTRACT
- APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated third item is for Gilbert, Huffman, Prosser, Hewson & Barke LTD attorney. Basically, what that is, is a continuation of using Rhett Barke as our attorney talked to you all about that earlier in the last few weeks that his contract was basically up and we just need to renew it. It's the same of money it was, which is, I believe 24,000 bucks.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve Gilbert, Huffman, Prosser, Hewson & Barke LTD attorney agreement with Franklin County. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-02.

FAGER - MCGEE PCO
#001 FOR EOC -
APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number four is for Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #001 for the EOC (Emergency Operating Center) and \$4,481.07 for additional steel.

Dave Bartoni made a motion to approve Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #001 as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

FAGER - MCGEE PCO
#003 FOR EOC -
APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number five is for Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #003 for the EOC (Emergency Operating Center).

Kevin Weston stated this purchase order is for \$1,833.30 for the ADA Americans with disability accessible showers.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #003 as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

FAGER - MCGEE PCO
#004 FOR EOC -
APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number six is for Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #004 for the EOC (Emergency Operating Center).

Kevin Weston stated this purchase order is for soil remediation, extra concrete, and some extra soil in there to replace the incongruent soils over there \$4,158 and it has already been done for the footing.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #004 as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**FAGER - MCGEE PCO
#006 FOR EOC -
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number seven is for Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #006 for the EOC (Emergency Operating Center) and this was for the water line for the refrigerator.

Kevin Weston stated this purchase order is for \$1,570.78.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve Fager - McGee Purchase Change Order #006 as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes except Angela Evans and Curtis Overton voted no.

**NOT RELEASING CLOSED
SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number eight is for Not Releasing Closed Session Minutes. Some housekeeping that we have to do every year for not releasing closed session minutes. So, do we have a motion for not releasing closed session minutes?

Curtis Overton made a motion to not release the closed session minutes. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**NOT DESTROYING
CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number nine is for Not Destroying Closed Session Minutes. And again, just housekeeping, we have a motion for closed session minutes.

Ray Minor: Had a question on this. In the past we have always voted no to destroy them. If it was advised by our state's attorney, we still have pending lawsuit that we should vote to keep them. Is that correct?

Kevin Wilson, County Clerk: That's correct.

Ray Minor: So, we still have those cases pending.

Kevin Wilson, County Clerk: Correct.

Ray Minor: We do.

Kevin Wilson, County Clerk: Yes. Okay.

Ray Minor made a motion do not destroy closed session minutes. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**MINIMUM WAGE FOR
NON-BARGAINING
EMPLOYEES SET BY THE
COUNTY BOARD**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number ten is for setting of minimum wage for non-bargaining employees under the control of the County Board. This has been talked about for a couple of months and I forgot to get it on. I told John Gossett that I would get this on the agenda last month and I forgot. So, what it is, is setting the minimum wage for our non-bargaining employees that are basically under our direct control of the county board. And if you remember him talking about this, he wanted to raise it \$1. It's currently at \$15. He wanted to raise it \$1 an hour. And I talked to many of you and I had an agreement that that was going to be okay. So it would go from \$15 an hour to \$16 an hour. So, do we have a motion to raise or set that minimum wage at \$16 an hour?

Curtis Overton: I make the motion to setting of the minimum wage for non-bargaining employees under the control of the board to be raised from \$15 to \$16 an hour.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Motion By Curtis Overton.

Dave Bartoni: When is that going to be effective?

Chairman Neil Hargis: That's a good point. I'm open on that. Do you want to make it retroactive to January 1st or?

Curtis Overton: Yes.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Can you amend your motion?

Curtis Overton: I amend my original motion by saying that it is retroactive to January 1st, 2025.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Do we have a second?

Dave Bartoni: I'll second.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Second by Dave Bartoni. Any questions? Okay, call the vote. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**MILEAGE
REIMBURSEMENT RATE
FOR STATE TRAVEL
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1,
2025 - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number eleven is for approval of a new mileage rate reimbursement of \$0.70 for State Travel Effective January 1, 2025. So again, just more of a housekeeping issue, but we need to approve that. So, do I have a motion to approve the 70-cent mile reimbursement?

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve a new mileage rate reimbursement of \$0.70 for State Travel Effective January 1, 2025. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-03.

**VISION ZERO ACTION
PLAN APPROACH FOR
ROAD SAFETY -
RESOLUTION**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number twelve is a resolution for Vision Zero Action Plan Approach for Road Safety. We have a resolution which Matt Barnett, County Engineer, talked to us about, which is the Vision Zero Action Plan approach for road safety. Do I have a motion to adopt that resolution.

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the resolution for Vision Zero Action Plan Approach for Road Safety as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-20.

**LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY
GENERAL MAINTENANCE
(IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,495,800)**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number thirteen is for Local Public Agency General Maintenance (in the amount of \$1,495,800). I guess this is one of the ones for Matt Barnett, County Engineer, local Public Agency General Maintenance, and the amount of \$1,495,800. Do we have a motion for that?

Angela Evans made a motion accept the Local Public Agency General Maintenance as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said general maintenance is made a part of these minutes.

**MAINTENANCE UNDER
THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY
CODE (IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$1,200,000) -
RESOLUTION**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number fourteen is a resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code (in the amount of \$1,200,000).

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-21.

**EASEMENT FROM
FLOWERS FARM &
KIRSHNER FARMS TO
LAND LOCKED ACREAGE
THAT WILL BE SOLD
THROUGH AUCTION**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number fifteen is a easement from Flowers Farms and Kirshner Farms to land locked acreage that will be sold through auction. Do I have a motion to release easement?

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

**EASEMENT FROM RYAN &
EMILY SKIBO TO NEW
OWNERS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number sixteen is a easement from Ryan and Emily Skibo to new owners. The easement and property to be sold has been surveyed. Skibo's is selling 25.831 acres and will be land lock without this easement.

Ray Minor made a motion to accept the easement as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said survey is made a part of these minutes as document number 2025-0261 recorded on January 24, 2025.

**VIOLATION OF PLAT
ACT REQUIREMENT ON
TED HOWARD REVOCABLE
TRUST TO SALE ONE
ACRE LESS THAN TWO
ACRES WITH A SURVEY
(1.00) - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that item number seventeen is an approval of violation of Plat Act requirement on Ted Howard Revocable Trust to sale one acre less than two acres with a survey motion for that particular one.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the violation of PLAT Act requirement on Ted Howard revocable trust, a sale of one acre and less than two acres with the survey. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said survey is made a part of these minutes as document number 2025-0235 recorded on January 23, 2025.

**KIRKPATRICK VARIANCE
FROM EASEMENT &
ACREAGE - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the last item on the agenda is Kirkpatrick variance for easement and acreage. We have a motion for that one?

Angela Evans made a motion to accept the variance as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**CROSSWALK COMMUNITY
ACTION AGENCY - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency Board and as this was discussed in the Committee Meeting earlier this evening, this will need to be tabled at this time.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
HOSPITAL BOARD - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Franklin County Hospital Board and as this was discussed in the Committee Meeting earlier this evening, this will need to be tabled at this time.

**REND LAKE AREA
TOURISM COUNCIL - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council and he recommends reappointing Mark Kays for another three year term ending December 31, 2027.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to reappoint Mark Kays to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

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

Chairman Neil Hargis stated the next item on the agenda are the December, 2024 monthly reports from the County Clerk, Sheriff and Coroner reports.

Ray Minor made motion to approve the reports as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

**VAC FISCAL YEAR 2024
ANNUAL REPORT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated the final item on the agenda is the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of Franklin County Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report (December 1, 2023 - November 30, 2024). We need a motion.

Ray Minor made a motion at accept these report as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said report is made a part of these minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Neil Hargis informed everyone that we will have no closed session.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Neil Hargis asked the Board if there were any questions. Curtis Overton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Larry Miller second the motion. There being no further business Chairman Neil Hargis declared the meeting adjourned.



Neil Hargis
Franklin County Board Chairman



Kevin Wilson
County Clerk and Recorder