

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AT

5:45 PM

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jan 2, 2024

---

## CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the County Board, was called to order at 5:45 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, Angela Evans, John Gossett, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston and Brad Wilson. Neil Hargis, Ray Minor and Jack Warren were absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Amos Abbott, E-911 Director; Sheriff Kyle Bacon; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Lorie LeQuatte, Franklin-Johnson-Massac-Williamson Regional Superintendent; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; and other interested parties.

## PLEDGE

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the public if there were comments at this time.

Amy Siliven: Yes. Good evening. I am here to talk about the pay leave for All Workers Act policy. When that act was passed, we here in the treasurer's office, I spoke with Steve and we in payroll, reached out to our people who run the payroll software, who we purchased it from, to make sure that the payroll software would accommodate what was required by the act. I got a report back from them in March when we contacted them and asked them about it because we wanted them to have plenty of time to make changes if needed to. The law only

would affect people who do not already have earned leave that meets or exceeds the law's requirements, so we can just put in a new code for them and received all information on how to do that. So, we were set.

And then last week I read this that you all put forth and it goes beyond what the Act requires. It includes things that our software is not currently able to do. For example, it cannot change one kind of leave into another kind or track and say, hey, you have used this much. Now we are going to switch over to that much in one kind of leap. So, I would urge you not to pass this, leave in the form that you have written it, but remove the part, at least for now, about the full-time people until we can, if you want that, get the software able to do that. We can take care of what the ACT requires. We will make sure of that back in March.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: It is my understanding that our legal counsel has indicated that this is pursuant to the law, and we can do this. Okay.

Amy Siliven: But the software does not work that way.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We will have to get that taken care of. Okay. Well, okay. I am sorry.

Amy Siliven: All Right.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller informed everyone that the purpose of this meeting is to 1.) appoint a Interim Director for Emergency Management Agency; 2.) approve Paid Leave for All Worker's Act Policy (PLAWA); 3.) reluctantly accept Jack Warren's resignation from the Franklin County Board.

**INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY - APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the appointment of an Interim Director for Emergency Management Agency and he recommended Zach Halstead.

John Gossett made a motion to appoint Zach Halstead as the Interim Director for Emergency Management Agenc. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**PAID LEAVE FOR ALL  
WORKER'S ACT POLICY  
(PLAWA) - APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Paid Leave for All Worker's Act Policy (PLAWA) and everyone has had a chance to read this act.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the Paid Leave for All Worker's Act Policy (PLAWA) as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion.

John Gossett: Yes. There is some discussion. This lady lady's telling us we are going beyond the act based on what we have written here. Why is it written go above and above beyond the act? What is going on?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, I have looked at it and I do not see it as that it will deal. The folks at this will affect will be our part-time people and those in the collective bargaining acts will not be changed.

John Gossett: Okay. But it is according to her. And I do not know, just hit me just now that it is above and beyond. Why would we do that? Why would we go above and beyond? Why would we put them in a position? We do not have to. I do not get it. Why can't we just adopt the act without this paper being like it is?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, I talked to counsel after they had done this, and counsel says this is not an issue that we can work this out. Okay. I am confident of that. Okay. I realize there's always logistical issues when we look at computers,

how they work. But I think we can make this work without a problem. That is why our legal counsel. So, I do not know whether I need to, do I question your counsel? That is where I am at. Okay.

John Gossett: What if we do not pass it? How much more time do we legally have to pass.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We legally must pass this tonight says the statutes. All Right. Any comments? Ready to vote.

On roll call vote, all voted yes, except John Gossett voted no.

Said policy as made a part of these minutes as Policy No. 2024-01.

**JACK WARREN'S  
RESIGNATION - ACCEPT**

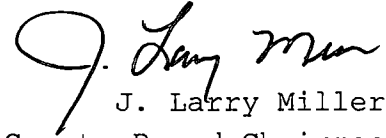
Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the accept and with reluctance, the resignation letter of Jack Warren from the Franklin County Board. We have a motion to do that.

Curtis Overton made a motion to accept Jack Warren's resignation from the board. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said letter is made a part of these minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the Board if there were any questions. Brad Wilson 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