

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jul 15, 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; Abby Dinn, States Attorney; Marty Leffler, County Coroner; 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?

Liam Mungovan, Veterans Assistance: Just wanted the board to know for the Veterans Assistance Commission for June, we brought in for veterans \$10,092.46 for the fiscal year of 2024. That's just one claim. Current claims are about 155 days from beginning to end if everything goes right and we have four claims and ready for decision status.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: So that's what you're helping Veterans. Anyone else?

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Brad Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2024 Regular County Board Meeting. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS Curtis Overton made a motion to pay the claims on file. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

DELINQUENT TAX RESOLUTIONS Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the Delinquent Tax Program resolutions regarding authorizing my signature (J. Larry Miller) to execute deeds on the parcels sold thru the County's Delinquent Tax Program.

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2024-29 and 2024-31.

OPIOID FUND REQUEST - SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR CANINE - APPROVAL Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda is to approve the opioid fund request for the Sheriff's Department for a canine and he presented a letter from Sheriff Kyle Bacon, as well as a cost quote from Vohne Liche Kennels in the amount of \$14,521.00. Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that, we talked about that in the committee I think previously and so I think you're aware of that. So, we need a motion to approve that.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the use of opioid funds for the Sheriff's canine as presented. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said letter and cost quote are made a part of these minutes.

**OPIOID FUND REQUEST
- CASA - APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the Opioid Fund request for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and he presented a letter from Mariah Hays Executive Director of CASA. I think that was worth 10,000, is that correct?

John Gossett: It was sir. But I'm going to ask for \$13,000 with a motion to give \$13,000 to CASA for the opioid fund request. We've got a hundred thousand and this is a small drop in the bucket and this is the last they get because opioid funds will be gone by next year. There won't be any more opioid funds. I want to increase it by \$3,000, that's fine.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay, we have a motion to approve the CASA request. The request was 10,000 and to approve an amount of \$13,000 payment to CASA.

Ray Minor: Seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any discussion on the motion. I Dunno if I have a right to discuss it, but I have a problem with it. That was their request and it seems to me that the request was done it before and to offer more and I don't know whether that's even in your budget or not. So, I'm going I know. Any other discussion? Alright, if not, we're ready to vote.

On roll call vote, all voted yes except Neil Hargis and Chairman J. Larry Miller voted no.

Said letter is made a part of these minutes.

**CLEAN FLOOR AT
JUSTICE CENTER -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller informed the County Board that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Cleaning the Floor at the Justice Center will be tabled at this time.

**POLICY FOR LIGHTS ON
COURTHOUSE -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the policy for lights on the courthouse. You have that policy language, you have had it, I Dunno if you've got it in front of you now, but do we have a motion to approve that language.

John Gossett: I have a motion to approve the language, adding the words animal rights and human rights to certain organizations that we will not entertain specific requests for to turn the lights on for them.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Identify exactly where you're putting that, John. I'm sorry.

John Gossett: Okay. It's in the second paragraph. It says the lights is not intended to be used for request from any civic, religious, or fraternal organization and I'm add to that animal rights, human rights organizations. So, it says the board will not obtain specific requests at this time.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Animal rights and human rights. How about if we animal and human rights?

John Gossett: Yes sir.

Angela Evans: I'll second the motion.

Brad Wilson: Abby? You're good with that? Adding that?

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: I haven't had an opportunity to read the document in the first place so I can't clean up any that.

Dave Bartoni: I mean Rhett drew that up. Did we talk to Rhett about that before we added language to what he drew up?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: He considered that a rough draft. I sent him concerns the county board and he drew that up and I gave it to you two weeks ago at the committee meeting.

Dave Bartoni: And so, is this a rough draft or is this a final?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: It is a final we're voting on. You had it before you.

John Gossett: Yeah, I just added two points to it.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any other discussion? One of the things that we can pass this policy but, in a year, or two another board can change this policy. Just a reality. We can't bind other boards from our position here.

Brad Wilson: And we could change the policy. If it goes back to Rhett and he decides we need to do something different, we can always amend our policy.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We could, but I don't see any reason why he would make a recommendation that we change the policy that he wrote.

Brad Wilson: I'm just talking about what we added stuff to what he wrote. Okay. I think he would've put that in there if he thought that was needed, but okay. I'm good.

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

Said policy is made a part of these minutes as Policy No. 2024-02.

**PURCHASE FOR LIGHTS
ON COURTHOUSE -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve purchase for lights on the courthouse. You had that information too. May have it tonight there with you. Also, is there a motion to approve the purchase for life on the courthouse using the courthouse funds?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: \$14,625 I believe. The other half will come out of the clerk operation fund.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Jim, does this include the annual cost?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: The first year, no, that goes into effect I believe on the one year from installation. Okay. Okay. Alright. Okay. We'll cross that bridge I guess when we get there. Okay.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I was going to ask you this earlier. I'm sorry I didn't do that, but does that annual cost include replacing bulbs?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: I am sure it does, yes. And they would have to bring in a lift when they, the lift to install these is 2,500 of the cost. I got to rent that a hundred plus foot, the annual thing after this year. \$1,375 if you choose to get, if you don't then it's your responsibility to seems like to be a 1,325 what it entails to get up there and try and change it.

Dave Bartoni: Okay. But now the way I read this, after for the annual maintenance cost, we could still be responsible for \$1,500 a day for the rental of the lift. Is that correct?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: That's what. Where is that at?

Dave Bartoni: About the middle of the page. On the second page. The bullet points start through to the height.

Brad Wilson: Are these bulbs, Jim?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Actually, your bulbs are the RGB square about one inch square and a four-foot section.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright, any other questions? We got a motion?

Kevin Wilson, County Clerk: No, we don't have a motion.

Brad Wilson: I will make that motion.

Curtis Overton: I'll second.

Brad Wilson: I guess I'll, the only thing, and this doesn't have anything to do with the vote that we're taking now, but before we enter into this agreement with them to maintain it, didn't you say that the Shane would be willing to?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: We can't come to terms on that because the Judge lighting wants to be involved in the installation and they do not have, the aerial truck they're working out of would not allow them to put people from another company. Shane said the city would be involved; help do with the installation. But Judge lighting said we'll not be a part of that because we're the ones that's going to say it's going to be done right.

Brad Wilson: But at some point, I'm just thinking of the maintenance, if we have bulb go out, because if we're not paying \$1,500, we'll Shane, we'll do it for free. We just got to buy the bulb from the company. We're just better off to talk to Shane and see, hey, if we have bulb go up and you guys be willing.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: We could not get them on the same page.

Brad Wilson: Because if we had to replace light, they're just going to get us the light if we're doing it ourselves.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Shane was very helpful when I talked to him until we couldn't get an agreement between judge and the city. City wouldn't be responsible for them on there and Shane wouldn't be responsible for them on the other side.

Brad Wilson: So, before we enter into an agreement with the yearly plan of them doing, I think let's try to talk to Shane and say, hey, instead of paying that, that's why we're not doing that by, right.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said Judge Service estimate dated November 21, 2023 is made a part of these minutes.

**NOT RELEASING THE
CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to not releasing the closed session minutes. The motion to not release the closed session minutes.

Neil Hargis made a motion to not release the closed session minutes. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**NOT DESTROYING THE
CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to not destroying the closed session minutes.

Angela Evans made a motion to not destroy the closed session minutes. Curtis Overton seconded motion.

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: No, we're saying not destroying because there's allegations right now, against the county and we cannot destroy anything that could possibly be discovery and any of allegations.

Ray Minor: Okay. Thank you for clarification.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**MARLER SURVEYING CO
INC - ARPA**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is approval of checks for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money. And you have those two items. There is a motion to do so?

Kevin Wilson, County Clerk: I don't have those amounts of me.

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: I think we have already taken care of the checks; this is the formal approval.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Mr. Clerk, can we give that to you at a later date?

Kevin Wilson, County Clerk: Sure.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Let's do that. Alright, so we need a motion to pay the ARPA checks or money to these two items to motion to that effect.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**NOVACOM SYSTEMS INC
- ARPA**

The NovaCom Systems Inc was included in the previous item's motion. The claim and invoice for \$5,849.99 are part of these minutes.

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

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

Neil Hargis made motion to approve the reports as presented. Kevin Weston 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 we need a motion to go into closed session to deal with collective negotiations and number four, litigation.

Kevin Weston made the motion at 6:26 p.m. to go into closed session. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

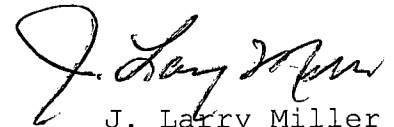
Chairman J. Larry Miller: There will be no action taken after we return. We'll come back and adjourn the meeting.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Brad Wilson made a motion to resume the open meeting at 6:59 p.m. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. All in agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

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