

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jul 17, 2023

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, Angela Evans, John Gossett, Neil Hargis, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston and Brad Wilson. Ray Minor and Jack Warren were absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, Administrative Assistant to the County Board; Marty Leffler, County Coroner; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; and Tom Carter and Rocky Morris and other interested parties.

PLEDGE

Curtis Overton lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Randall Crocker a former Franklin County Chairman and followed by a pray for Randall Crocker's family.

Father, we come to you right now. We lift up Randall's family. Lord, we don't understand sometimes why these things happen in the way that they do. But I know that you are in control and we must trust you for all of it. So, I pray for his wife and his children as they .in these hours and days ahead, that somehow you might reach down and wrap your arms around them. Help them to feel your presence. Cause we all know you do care. And I pray that you would help them and that you would give them strength. Thank you for what Randall did for

this community and for this county. And much of what we're experiencing here tonight was a result of that. And I thank you for it. Now, Lord, I pray that you'd help us as we deliberate on the issues that are before us. It seems that the, the issues are mounting not going away. But I pray that you'd help us to be deliberate and that we would do the honorable thing that you would have us to do. I pray for wisdom for my own self and for others here in the name of Christ. I pray, ask it all.

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

Tom Carter, asked Kevin Weston... Again, on the Campbell Building it should not be used the building inside or out beyond the original scope. What I understand the roof, but as far as painting, it shouldn't be used for that period. The Juvenile Detention Center, I asked John, there, during intermission. How come we cannot go for another referendum, keep the sales tax, or I should say the real estate tax on it, but ask for permission from the voters to allow it to be utilized in a different form. Then you get both. You got the flexibility to use it for other purposes, plus you keep the sales or the real estate tax on it. Would that be anything's worthwhile in considering?

John Gossett answered Tom Carter's question stating. Yes. I think it would be fine.

Rocky Morris stated. That's, if it would be anyone else. Yep. On this juvenile center. Would it be profitable and feasible to do a financial efficiency study? Have we ever done that? How much did it cost daily to house one person? The other thing is that I just noticed, I talked to sheriff about it this morning. We had a young man at the end of December who suffered a broken arm at the at the juvenile center. There was never a report made on that incident. They didn't know if the sheriff's department made it or the justice system made it.

One of the other things that John said a while ago, Brad too, is cameras. This is one spot where cameras would've worked. The cameras were not working. How long have they been out of existence? How many years? You know, if you look at the lawsuits that's coming in, this is going to get costly. Cause according to the lawsuits, we don't provide medical, we don't provide mental health services. I know that's allegations, but, and also, how much of the money does the county fund; not reimbursement wise from the state, but how many, how much money do we fund from the county side to operate that operation of that.

Curtis Overton stated. So, don't we need to get some type of financial efficiency study, but look at this to see is it going to be financially feasible to operate? It's not. That's my opinion with I honestly don't believe the governor's moving that way. It's not going to be for punishment. It's going to be for rehabilitation. And I think, you know, if we do, if the board goes with redo it, but thing to make it to all can we still fund it? Will the state fund, will they continue to, you know, to supply the wages we pay benefits, right? Correct. That's taxpayer dollars. So, the whole question is, would it be financially feasible to do an efficiency fund to review it, see what its daily costs if for the probation and juvenile juveniles too. Cause this is going to get costly. And I'm looking myself talking to some governor people. I mean, I think John's right on that Attorney General can come in.

Rocky Morris stated. He came in over there and removed the entire board after we wrote. Okay. So, the Attorney general can come in to do things like that. Would it be feasible? Nobody wants to see anybody lose their job. Not like John on that part. You know, if we could take these guys and put 'me in sheriff's office departments, different things like that, that's one thing. But, you know that just my thing. And the big thing is, see as part of this lawsuit where this kid got a broken

arm. I talked to sheriff about it, it happened. So, but there's no report. Who's, who's response? Where's she at? In my opinion, the judge should be here to ask questions and I don't care who tells you this is hers. She's in the lawsuit. Not none. You, you're blamed for a lot in the lawsuit. You know, you guys sit on your butt, don't do nothing. Well, I'm trying to figure out what does the county board do with the juvenile? We tried to get em hazard paid, found out they're not employees. Where does this say again? That's just my 2 cents. Thank you. Short answer. Honor if we can turn that place into the Taj Mahal. The state does not want juveniles incarcerated. Correct.

Brad Wilson stated. There's, there's 135 kids locked up in the entire state. And every juvenile facility we have in the state is 135. Harrisburg currently has 35. It's, it has served its purpose and it's time. And we are going to have to pivot now and come up with a creative way to repurpose that.

Rocky Morris stated. One last thing. Can we, if we do pick that up, can we meet with it where we can use it as a federal facility, which that's where your money's at. Just thought. Thank you.

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked if there were any more comments.

John Gossett stated. Yeah. One more. Why don't we check with our state's attorney and see if we can appeal to some judges?

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS
MEETING**

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Regular County Board Meeting. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

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

**DELINQUENT TAX
RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next 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.

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

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-15 and 2023-16.

**LANDSCAPING FOR
COURTHOUSE - APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to amend the decision on landscaping for the Courthouse. Do you have a motion you want to make or, or do you want to table this?

Kevin Weston stated. I think I'd like to table tonight. I don't think we're quite ready and anything we do anyways. Yeah. Okay.

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated. Alright. So, if you will gimme the latitude. We will table that. Can I ask this question though? I know we're tabling, but can we get somebody to come pull weeds?

Kevin Weston replied. Yes.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICE AGREEMENT -
2ND AMENDMENT -
APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a Second Amendment to Emergency Medical Services Agreement. Motion to approve the Second Amendment to the Emergency Medical Services. Okay. Alright. We have a motion from John Gossett is there a second, second. Second by Mr. Wilson. Any discussion on the motion? Now? That First Amendment has time run out on it is. So, we're, we're good? Yes. Okay. All. So, any discussion? If not, we are ready to vote.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the Emergency Medical Services as presented. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said Second Amendment to the Emergency Medical Services agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2023-10.

**INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
TRANSFER OF 2007
WHITE CHEVROLET VAN
- APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that next item on the agenda is approve the Inter-Governmental Transfer of a 2007 White Chevrolet Van with an odometer reading of 354,281 miles. And there's the VIN number from the County Coroner's office to the Hill City Water District to be effective June 17, 2023. Is that correct? Alright. Someone makes about that motion. So, moved (Gossett). Is there a second? I'll second it (Overton).

John Gossett made a motion to approve the 2007 White Chevrolet Van transfer as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**ADD CHANGE FINDER TO
EAGLE VIEW FLIGHT -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that next item on the agenda is approve to add ChangeFinder to Eagle View Flight for 2024 GIS with a cost of \$28,351. Are there any questions.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the addition of ChangeFinder to Eagle View Flight for 2024 GIS as presented. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**CIRCUIT CLERK
OPERATION FUND -
REIMBURSE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item is to approve the funding on reimburse the Circuit clerk's operational fund for labor and shredding and recycling from the 1% funding. You wanna make a motion to do that? Well, can we, can we, let's just do that in one motion. The 1% by, okay. Is there a motion to approve that? Motion? Motion by Mr. Hargis? Is there a second? Second. Second. By Mr. Overton, if no discussion.

John Gossett asked. I guess I have some questions. How does that fall under the, the 1% shredding things that has nothing to do with building or maintenance moved.

Jim Muir stated. The files were moved from the old courthouse to the Campbell building. They moved them. They decided which ones could be destroyed. And, and the Sheriff's department and my office, I hired two boys to move them 200 boxes upstairs, outside. And I said it was part of the move. I don't care where just I, I thought that was the best way to go with it. Was it, we process move out. So it was part of the process of, of, yeah. Yes. Okay. I'll deal with that. Okay. Any other discussion? Not we were ready to vote.

Neil Hargis made a motion to approve the reimbursement of the Circuit Clerk's operational fund for labor and shredding and recycling from the 1% funding in the amount of \$825.00. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said copy of the claim and invoice are made a part of these minutes.

**SCANNING FOR CIRCUIT
CLERK**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the claims for salaries for scanners for the Circuit Clerk to be paid from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding for pay period July 3, 2023 thru July 16, 2023 at \$15.00 per hour for both. Janice Manis worked 36 hours for a total of \$540.00 and Kay Kearney worked 27 hours for a total of \$405.00 and the total amount for both salaries \$ 945.00.

John Gossett asked. I have a question on the Janis Manis and Kay Kearney. For the scanning for the circuit clerk, is this what we've already paid them or we're paying them an additional?

Jim Muir stated. I thought we, they were they, you made you approved a request for me to hire them until the end of this year. Okay. And they're being paid \$15 an hour. One of them Janice May is working 18 hours a week. And Kay Kearney is working 13 and half hours a week. So it's it amount to \$945 every two weeks is what? And then you may be approved, you approve that a while back for them to scan me to use and focus on scanning for the remainder of this year using ARPA funding.

John Gossett replied. Okay. Okay. Right.

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

Said claim is made a part of these minutes.

**MARION GLASS &
MIRROR INSTALLED -
JUVENILE DETENTION
CENTER**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the claim for Marion Glass & Mirror / Installed replacement glass in cells and caulk windows for the Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$3,194.57.

Kevin Weston stated. That was for detention center. I I'm thinking it was like 5,000 something or, but we had to do it because the glass, we had broken glass in some of the cells going outside and we were getting air leaks into the cell from outside. Plus it was causing moisture problem and mold problem. But I, I can't remember the, I'll get that answer for you.

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

Said claim is made a part of these minutes.

**MINER'S CEMETERY OF
ROYALTON - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two appointments to the Miner's Cemetery of Royalton Board and he informed the County Board that there was no one to appointment so this will need to be tabled at this time.

**COUNTY CLERK,
CORONER, & SHERIFF**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda are the June, 2023 monthly reports from the Franklin County Clerk, Franklin County Coroner and Sheriff.

Curtis Overton 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.

**ROE - QUARTERLY
REPORT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda is the quarterly report from the Regional Office of Education #21 for Franklin, Johnson, Massac and Williamson Counties.

Curtis Overton made motion to approve the report as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said report are made a part of these minutes.

**TOURISM - QUARTERLY
REPORT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda is the quarterly report from the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council.

Curtis Overton made motion to approve the report as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said report are made a part of these minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is a closed session for the items listed on the agenda.

At 7:12 p.m. the closed session began.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**

John Gossett made a motion at 8:10 p.m. to resume to the open meeting. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT

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