

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jun 17, 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, and Brad Wilson. Kevin Weston was absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Kyle Bacon, County Sheriff; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Ryan Buckingham, Director of Emergency Management Agency - by phone; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor 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?

Steve Vercellino, Sr.: Just want to let you guys know we just finished event, the S 3D archery. It's a three-year contract. We have with them, it's on its third year. But anyway, it's like kids that are six to 11, just one group. Then like 12 to 18 is the other group. It's kids. There were 697 competitors. So that's kids.

Well, those kids bring parents, grandparents. So, I mean we had this unbelievable amount of people. And Rick Litton, he is still, involved but he's not a director anymore, but he still keeps his pulse on the wrist kind of. And he estimates that

brings in over a million dollars' worth of what he calls new money. The money didn't get here. I mean the only reason it got brought in from abroad, we had states from, I drove around the parking lot in a golf cart and there were license plates from Pennsylvania, from North Carolina, Georgia, of course Kentucky and Indiana. I mean it was just like, and there was even a competitor from Colorado that came and this was just the Eastern division and that guy's from the Western division who decided to come out and compete these are young kids. So, it is a big event and we'll have to negotiate another contract to do them for the next three years.

But I talked to, at the end of the event, I've talked to Holly, who is the main gal and she said that we want to come back. And she said, well, that's people from Pennsylvania. The first year we were here complained about the extra four hours that they drive to come to Illinois. And now they're saying that that extra four hours, they don't want to go anyplace else. And the Corps of Engineers I mean it is on Corps of Engineers property. They do a heck of a job; I mean a heck of a job. And we just try to get all the formalities and get the food trucks and the ice and the water and everything. The crop does most of the work. So anyways, it's a good deal for our area. Unfortunately, Franklin County don't have enough hotels, so it spills over into Jefferson County. So, we did a lot of good things for Jefferson County too. But we really want you to be Franklin County. So that's how we get paid. But anyway, just letting you know that it ended. It is really good. Thank you.

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked there were any other comments?

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Neil Hargis made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2024 Regular County Board Meeting. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

Ray Minor made a motion to pay the claims on file. Dave Bartoni 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.

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

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2024-25 and 2024-28.

**PURCHASE OF GUTTERS
FOR CORONER'S OFFICE
- APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval to purchase gutters for the Coroner's Office and we have a low bidder of that with someone. We have the bids, I guess that'd be appropriate for someone to make a motion to approve the purchase of the gutters from what company?

John Gossett: I make a motion to approve the purchase of the gutters for the coroner's office from Midwest Seamless Guttering Service from Mt. Vernon, out with the bid being \$1,250 for six inches.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. We have a motion. Is there a second?

Brad Wilson: I just want to ask one question? Do we have anybody from Franklin County?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes. One was.

Dave Bartoni: And how much more? So Skibo Exterior Services from Ewing, bit was \$900 more.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay. Good question. Thank you.

Dave Bartoni: I will say I looked at these bids and I don't know the gauge from Midwest, but indicated his was heavy duty gutters and had four downspouts. So, it's not really, I pay for two extra downspouts, but Midwest only has two downspouts. And I assume that that six-inch gutter will handle all that water. Depends on, there's a lot of roofs there as well.

Curtis Overton: I second the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any discussion? If not, we are ready to vote. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**CONTRACT WITH FAGER
MCGEE FOR EOC -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Contract with Fager-McGee for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

John Gossett made a motion to award the contract to Fager-McGee for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The contract is worth \$3,251,000, but it's subject to addition and deductions is provided in a contract document. Neil Hargis seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said contract is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-14.

**CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR
FOR CAMPBELL
BUILDING, SHERIFF'S
OFFICE & JUSTICE
CENTER - APPROVAL TO
HIRE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval to hire a Custodial Supervisor for Campbell Building, Sheriff's Office and Justice Center. We are looking at Norma Jones, a contract for one year at \$20 an hour. She will receive vacation time and IMRF and sick leave as per the contract. Are there any questions about this contract?

Curtis Overton: I have some questions. More so comments. I hear nothing but good about Ms. Jones. So, I have no qualms with her. I do want to raise the question of our method of hiring people for county government jobs. Now, I've been

in government positions of one caliber or another 23 years. I've never been on a board where you did not have to advertise to the public for job openings within your government jurisdiction. This is the first time I've ever run into it and that's why I brought it up. So, I was told by Abby Dinn the States Attorney and by you, Larry, that we don't have to do so, well, maybe we don't have to, but maybe we should because the taxpayers of the county are footing the bill for whoever we hire.

There might be a lot of people wanting to get started in the county government and they don't even know about the opening. In addition to that, we've got employees that work for us that don't make \$20 an hour. We're starting her out at \$20 an hour. Well, there's no opportunity for these people vie for that job or to what in union you'd call, put in a bid for that job. They're interested in a better position with the county. We've also bypassed that by not advertising this opening. So, I'm not opposed to Ms. Jones getting this position. I've heard nothing but good about her, but I think we need to review the process of hiring government employees in the county.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Thank you. Your point is well taken, Curtis.

Brad Wilson: There's no overtime involved in this?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, there may be. Okay.

Brad Wilson: If there's overtime involving, we got to go to that, then that's going to change my vote. I'm getting that. Well, as of December 1st, what?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: 35 hours a week? Anything over 35 hours a week would be overtime.

Brad Wilson: So, she's not eligible for that money because we're paying her hourly. She's going to be hourly? Okay.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Yes.

Brad Wilson: Want to make sure we don't get messages.

Curtis Overton: How many hours were the two people getting that she's replacing?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Oh gosh. I Dunno.

Curtis Overton: The two part-timers.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I don't know to answer to that.

Teri Conaway, Sheriff Department Administrative Director: I'd say about 20 to 22 hours per pay period. That's what I would turn in. That's like 10 hours every week I would go in, but I don't would only clean the surface. There are so many hours in the day for me. I get there at 5:30 in the morning. I quit at 7:30 am, change my clothes, put my other hat on. So, it needs to be kept better than what I was capable doing.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: And the idea too is that we will have supervision over those folks that are in the Campbell building and the Justice Center, which is drastically needed.

Ray Minor: And the cleaning responsibilities are getting ready to drastically increase with the building.

Teri Conaway, Sheriff Department Administrative Director: My decision just to happen to fall coincidentally with this, because I assess for Frankfort Township and I just got my certification, so I've got to dedicate my time also over there. And so typically I wouldn't be giving this up. It would just be the supervisor position. So, like I said, I threw this in on Gayla just probably a week and a half ago, two weeks ago.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any other questions about the contract? If not, we're ready to vote, did I have a motion?

Kevin Wilson: No, sir.

Ray Minor: I'd like make a motion we hire a custodial supervisor for the Campbell building and the Sheriff's Office and the Justice Center.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Thank you for the motion. Is there a second? Second to the motion. I'll ask one more time. Is there a second to the motion? Motion dies for a lack of a second. I don't know where to go here, guys.

Curtis Overton: I guess you could table it to the next meeting.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, it is failed. I thought that I had authority and position to bring this to a vote and that it would pass. I am at a loss here, but, that's where we are.

**ADJUSTMENT FOR EMA
DIRECTOR SALARY -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an adjustment to the EMA director's salary and he present information from the Department of Labor Human Resources Corner to the EMA director salary, which will increase to \$43,888 on July 1st, 2024 as per Department of Labor Regulations, is there a motion?

John Gossett made a motion for the approval of adjustment to the EMA director salary as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**ADJUSTMENT FOR
ANIMAL CONTROL
SUPERVISOR SALARY -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an adjustment to the Animal Control Supervisor's salary and he present information from the Department of Labor Human Resources Corner is the approval for adjustment to the Animal Control Supervisor salary, which we increased to \$43.388 on July 1st, 2024, as per Department of Labor.

Ray Minor made a motion to adjustment to the Animal Control Supervisor salary as presented. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said information from Department of Labor is made a part of these minutes.

**VARIANCE ON ACREAGE
FOR RICHARD & GAYLA
FLOWERS / THE
FLOWERS FAMILY TRUST**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the variance for the Richard and Gayla Flowers / Flowers Family Trust - surveyor is Brandon Edwards from Shawness Professional Services. He is asking for a variance on the land where Richard's parents lived. Richard wants to separate it from the commercial property, that is now leased to a fiber-optic company. The road frontage for the house is fine but they are only splitting out 1.3 acres. The variance would be because the plat act asks for two acres minimum with a survey and we would be splitting out 1.3 acres.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the variance as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Is there any discussion?

Brad Wilson: Yeah, I'm going vote no on this one. I guess what changes if somebody has just said they got a barn on their property and now they want to just, I don't want to sell 'me a barn. I just want to sell my house. Is this kind of the same issue? I want to sell this piece of property, but not my whole property?

Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments: Not really.

Tami Price, GIS Coordinator: Well, you're looking at commercial versus residential. That's where his mom and dad lived initially started the business. And of course, its surrounded basically.

Brad Wilson: Well, I don't understand, the frustrating part for me is, why do we have this and I say this, why do we have this? And we just go ahead and do it. I don't understand.

Tami Price, GIS Coordinator: This is my opinion that if it's a definite go, you don't see it. If it's a definite no, you don't see it. The only things you see are the ones that are by plat, which we're revamping that anyway. And they're usually not big things. I mean, we're just a little bit short on acreage and he did a survey. So, we have a survey.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We have a motion. And second?

Kevin Wilson: Yes sir.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any further discussion? If not, we are ready to vote. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said variance is made a part of these minutes.

**VARIANCES ON ROAD
FRONTAGE FOR JEFF
KIRKPATRICK**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the variance on road frontage for Jeff Kirkpatrick is going to tabled at this time.

**PAUL MILLER
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
(ARPA)**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the checks for the coroner's office to Paul Miller Construction using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money. What is the exact amount, Curtis, do you know?

Curtis Overton: I didn't bring it with me, so I Dunno. Steve had it in one of the folders.

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: It's in the green folder.

Curtis Overton: We'd already paid him \$70,000 early and therefore the balance owned is \$138,331.00.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the check to Paul Miller Construction as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said invoice is made a part of these minutes.

**FRANKLIN WILLIAMSON
BI-COUNTY HEALTH - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are appointments for the Franklin County Bi-County Health. We want to reappoint Kevin Weston to a three year term ending June 30, 2027 and appoint Curtis Overton to replace Angela Evans one year term ending June 30, 2025. Is there a motion to do that? To approve that?

Brad Wilson made a motion for the appointments to the Franklin County Bi-County Health Board as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes except Curtis Overton abstained.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
MENTAL "708" HEALTH
/ CENTERSTONE - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Franklin County Mental "708" Health / Centerstone and he read a letter from Centerstone requesting to appoint Tammy Weston to the Franklin County Mental "708" Health / Centerstone Board to replace Gerald Owens who has resigned. The appointment is for an unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.

Angela Evans made a motion to appoint Tammy Weston to the Franklin County Mental "708" Health / Centerstone Board as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said letter is made a part of these minutes.

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

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

Curtis Overton made motion to approve the reports as presented. Neil Hargis 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 he stated that a closed session is not needed at this time.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the Board if there were any questions. John Gossett 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