

DATE: March 4, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY
(Sheriff's Office, Juvenile Detention Center, EMA, Animal Control,
Waste Management, Bi-County Health Board, 911/Emergency Services, Animal Control)
DECEMBER, 2023 THRU NOVEMBER, 2024
FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH

Franklin County Board Committee meetings and Franklin County Board meetings are held at the Franklin County Board Room, Franklin County Courthouse, 100 Public Square, Benton, Illinois.

COMMITTEEMEN:

- (x) John Gossett – Chairman
- (x) Angela Evans
- (x) Neil Hargis - EMA
- (x) Larry Miller – County Board Chairman
- () Ray Minor – 911/Emergency Services
- (x) Curtis Overton
- (x) David Bartoni
- (x) Kevin Weston
- () Brad Wilson – Juvenile Detention Center

County Offices

- () Amos Abbott, Director 911
- () Kyle Bacon, Sheriff
- (x) Matt Barnett, County Engineer
- () Ryan Buckingham, Director EMA
- () Abigail Dinn
- () Darla Fitzgerrell, Court Services
- (x) Marty Leffler, Coroner
- () Lorie LeQuatte, ROE
- (x) Cynthia Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments
- () Judge Melissa Morgan
- () Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk
- (x) Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager
- () Monica Urban, Probation
- (x) Steve Vercellino, Treasurer
- () Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (Public Comments)...Jim Reed (Concerned about near-by house. He felt like it was a possible "drug house" and he could not get help for the safety of the children and the elderly in the neighborhood), Dwayne Williams, and other interested parties that attended.

The meeting was called to order at 5:44 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending.

Chairman Gossett asked for any reports or information...

Coroner Marty Leffler...

- Gave his February report. The full report can be seen on www.franklincountyil.gov as 03-04-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 1.
- Again, he thanked the Board for the office and the morgue.
- Explained that lots of the work has been done by employees.
- His budget will be spent on smaller items.
- Other coroners are interested in seeing the facility.
- County Board Chairman Larry Miller asked if this could be a slight money maker...maybe to help with the electric bill and Leffler thought it could be.

Sheriff Kyle Bacon was not at the meeting but had sent his report. The full report can be seen on www.franklincountyil.gov as 03-04-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 2.

County Board member Angela Evans...

Brought up the immigration crisis. The Board had been given a copy of a resolution that had been passed in Effingham County concerning the problem. This resolution can be seen on www.franklincountyil.gov as 03-04-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 3. Her concern is that the county's budget is for our county residents needs in various ways. We do not have extra resources.

County Board member John Gossett...

Mentioned that another county - Grundy County does not want to be a sanctuary county either. Again, their resources could not handle that.

He also mentioned the levy for U of I Extension, and that some counties were looking into reducing the amount in order to lower real estate for their residents. He will do some more research on it for possible future discussion.

County Board member Curtis Overton...

Is still concerned about safety, especially on election day. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM

Minutes submitted 03/14/2024

John Gossett – Public Safety Committee

DATE: March 18, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY
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- (x) Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (Public Comments)...Lynn Heins with U of I Extension, Dwayne Williams, Steve Vercellino and other interested parties that attended.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending. There were no public comments.

Chairman Gossett asked for any reports or information...

Sheriff Kyle Bacon

...Upcoming Eclipse

- The Eclipse will be April 8th and a lot of extra people are expected to be in the county.
- He and the other county services have been making plans for this.
- The city is having an event on Saturday, April 6th. The square will be shut down to traffic. There will be music, food trucks, etc.
- Over 275,000 extra people are predicted to be south of Effingham and over 99% of hotels and camp grounds have already been reserved.

... Vacant Juvenile Detention Center

- He has received another call about a possible interest.
- Chairman Miller mentioned that we would like to lease the building.

Coroner Marty Leffler Update on the Coroner's Office...

- Currently are finishing drywalls.
- The cooler will hold 12 tables.
- Ameren will have to put in gas line. A date has not yet been determined.
- He has been purchasing some items with his own budget lines.
- We are looking at a 30-day completion at this time.

Animal Control Supervisor Bobbie Williams...

- Has an agreement for services with Christopher on the following County Board agenda.
- Pricing on the agreements is based on the population.
- The agreements are for 1 year.
- Agreements may need to be updated.

EMA Director Ryan Buckingham...

- Is still in the hospital and thanked the board for their support.
- Will be distributing a potential budget to the Board in the next week or so.
- Has been in the meetings for the upcoming Eclipse.

Chairman Miller

...U of I Extension

- He and John Gossett had met with Lynn Heins who is the coordinator for the U of I Extension.
- Mrs. Heins was at the meeting to answer any questions.
- The Extension's budget has around a 3-year reserve.
- After doing some research, the County is looking into possible lowering the amount of the levy until the reserve has been used. If so, it would not take place until at least 2025.
- Ms. Heins was concerned that once it is lowered, the county might not be able to raise it back to the original percentage. That concern will be answered before/if levy is changed.

...Following County Board Meeting Agenda

- There is an item on the agenda that will be paid with the 1%.
- There is one appointment that will also be made.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM

Minutes submitted 03/28/2024

John Gossett – Public Safety Committee