

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 20, 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; Amos Abbott, E911 Director; Kyle Bacon, County Sheriff; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Ryan Buckingham, Director of Emergency Management Agency - by phone; Marty Leffler, 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?

Tom Carter: Yes sir. Yes. After the last meeting I ran into Mr. Weston and we talked naturally about 1% again, and he made a comment that kind of troubled me, and I don't know where the rest of you stand. But for me, everything that goes on beyond what the voters actually voted for to me would be illegal.

Mr. Weston said that he would like to build a nest egg, from that 1% money. Now, so I would like to know if the rest of you are in agreement with that, and if you are, then how much are we going to get stuck for, as taxpayers for this nest egg? Is the number 1 million, 2 million, 10 million.

Kevin Weston: I think you misunderstood me.

Tom Carter: No, I took it pretty clear.

Kevin Weston: But my thought was, or my response was if we let it build to a certain point and that's the amount of money we need to pay the building off, then do it in one lump sum. I didn't say let's have a nest egg and keep it for whatever. Just have the money there and then pay it off in one loan payment.

Tom Carter: Someone has the payoff date, is it still in 2027 or 2026? Where is that?

Steve Vercellino: I think that's probably what it would be, you've got that next annual report coming up the next month or so. I'll recalculate it and I'll share that.

Tom Carter: Okay. Well if I misunderstood then I apologize. But, with all these other little projects that I always assume go above and beyond what the voters voted for, that's the way I took it. Okay. Thank you.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2024 Regular County Board Meeting and the April 22, 2024 Special County Board Meeting. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

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

AMENDED SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS CONTRACT - APPROVAL

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the approval of the Amended Supervisor of Assessments contract.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the Amended Supervisor of Assessments contract which amending Agreement No. 2024-04 passed at the April 15, 2024

Regular County Board Meeting. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said Amended Supervisor of Assessments contract is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-09.

**PLAT ACT ON MARK
INGRAM ON
REQUIREMENT OF 125'
OF ROAD FRONTAGE -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the violation of Plat Act on Mark Ingram on the requirement of 125' of road frontage.

Ray Minor made motion to approval the plat act for Mark Ingram as presented. Dave Bartoni seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said document is made a part of these minutes.

**AUDITOR CONTRACT -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Auditor Contract with Rice Sullivan LLC Certificated Public Accountants from Du Quoin, Illinois.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Brad Wilson seconded the motion.

Curtis Overton: I have a question. Since my email has crashed and I didn't get to look at what's the cost of the auditor going to be?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I believe it's 130,000 considerably cheaper than our other one. Okay, but higher than the previous year? I would say that Mr. Muir has been very helpful, in that and making contacts. I thank you Jim. Rice and Sullivan, they've done that. They've done it since I've been on board, I think it's our understanding is Steve's going to work diligently.

Ray Minor: As he's already indicated, he's already given some information already. I think it's a team effort.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I do think Jim was invaluable. I hate to tell him that but alright. Any other discussion? Is there any discussion? If not, we're ready to vote. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said contract is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-10.

**CIRCUIT CLERK AUDIT
- APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Annual Audit Circuit Clerk Operations for the year ended November 30, 2023 from Rice Sullivan Certified Public Accountants.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the circuit clerk's annual audit. John Gossett seconded the motion.

Jim Muir: We finished, I sent to the comptroller on May 9th and to the administrative office same day and we mailed a hard copy on the following week. Gayla has a copy. County clerk, Kevin Wilson's office,,, I filed a copy with them, had a good audit, clean audit and no findings of what we shoot for. And I want to say that the majority of the credit goes to my staff, particularly to Cathy Dial, who does work tirelessly day after day to make sure things are done right and so we have a clean audit. We got one and ready to move on.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright, thank you. Any other comments? Is there any discussion? If not, we're ready to vote. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said audit is made a part of these minutes.

**AWARDING OF CONTRACT
- RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is a resolution for the awarding of contract for the FAS 869 Elkville Blacktop Section 21-00190-00-RS and the low bidder was Samron Midwest Contracting from Murphysboro.

Neil Hargis made a motion to accept the resolution as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes Resolution No. 2024-24.

**CONTRACT & BOND WITH
SAMRON MIDWEST FOR
ELKVILLE BLACKTOP -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval contract and bond with Samron Midwest for FAS 869 Elkhville Blacktop Section 21-00190-00-RS for the amount of \$293,382.58.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the contract with Samron. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said local public agency formal contract & contract bond are made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-11 and 2024-12 respectfully.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT BETWEEN
AKIN WATER DISTRICT
& THE FRANKLIN
COUNTY BOARD**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Intergovernmental Agreement between Akin Water District and the Franklin County Board regarding Franklin County Sheriff's Department's installation of a radio repeater. And you've heard about that. So is there a motion to approve?

Curtis Overton made a motion to adopt that inter agreement as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said Intergovernmental Agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2024-13.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to have a closed session at 6:35 p.m.

Tom Carter: Larry don't you need to be specific.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: No, Tom.

John Gossett made a motion to go in closed session. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated we're calling this meeting back in order at 6:55 pm. I guess we have to have roll call. So we'll do that please.

John Gossett made a motion to return to open meeting at 6:55 pm. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**AWARD EMERGENCY
OPERATION CENTER
(EOC) GENERAL
CONTRACTOR**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the award the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) General Contractors and we have a recommendation to the recommendation from the committee that looked over the bids and our architect: Arch images. And Roy Mangan met with us as well as the consensus of the board. Unanimous from the board. If we'd like to award the contract to Fager-McGee Commercial Construction from Murphysboro, Illinois with a bid of \$3,142,000.00.

Kevin Weston made a motion to award this contact to Fager-McGee Commercial Construction as recommended. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said recommendations are made a part of these minutes.

**CONSOLIDATION
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
- APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the consolidation implementation plan. You've had that looked at that.

Neil Hargis made a motion to approve the consolidation implementation plan as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said consolidation implementation plan is made a part of these minutes.

**BOARD OF REVIEW - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two appointments to the Franklin County Board of Review for Leon McLaren and Ron Sink for another two year term ending June 1, 2026. We have two terms that are expiring for . And I want to reappoint those on the Board of Review and we take that as an, we could take the two of 'em as one motion. Okay.

John Gossett made a motion to reappoint Leon McLaren and Ron Sink to the Franklin County Board of Review for another two year term ending June, 1, 2026. Kevin Weston second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**CROSSWALK COMMUNITY
ACTION AGENCY BOARD
- 1 APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency and he read a letter from Shelley Pyle, Executive Director, requesting to appoint Christy Powers to replace Jim Muir's unexpired term ending December 31, 2024 and recommends this replacement.

Neil Hargis made a motion to appoint Christy Powers to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency ending December 31, 2024. Angela Evans 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**

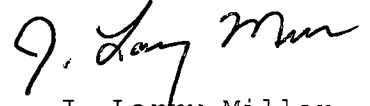
Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda are the April, 2024 monthly reports from the County Clerk, Sheriff and Coroner reports.

Curtis Overton made motion to approve the reports as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the Board if there were any questions. Angela Evans 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