

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Nov 20, 2023

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

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Matt Barnett, County Engineer and other interested parties.

**PLEDGE**

Neil Hargis lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Curtis Overton made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular County Board Meeting and November 6, 2023 Special County Board Meeting. Jack Warren seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**COUNTY CLAIMS**

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

**EASEMENT FROM GENE FLETCHER TO JEFFREY SUMMERS - APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the approval of new easement aerial map from Gene Fletcher to Jeffrey A. Summers and the parcels involved are 02-32-200-003 and 02-32-200-016 respectfully. This was discussed earlier this evening at the Committee meeting.

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

Said aerial map is made a part of these minutes.

**OFFICE FOR CIVIL  
RIGHTS (OCR)  
INFORMATION TO BE  
INCLUDED IN  
PERSONNEL HANDBOOK -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the addition of Office for Civil Rights, the old CR information to be included in the personnel handbook. I do not know. Do they have copies of that or just do I? They had last time when we talked. Okay. That is right. So, it is a formality at this point. So, is there a motion to approve that?

Jack Warren made a motion to approve the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said form is made a part of these minutes.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION  
AUTHORITY (ICJIA)  
INFORMATION TO BE  
INCLUDED IN  
PERSONNEL HANDBOOK -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the is the approval of the addition for Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) information to be included in personnel handbook. You also had that previously. Is there a motion to approve?

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) information to be included in personnel handbook as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said form is made a part of these minutes.

**ANIMAL CONTROL TO  
HIRE PART TIME  
EMPLOYEE - APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval to hire a temporary slash part-time employee for the Animal Control. Chairman J. Larry Miller asked John Gossett to explain. John Gossett explained that a lady was injured off duty and another employee is needed.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the hiring of a part time employee for the Animal Control. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**DEPUTY CAPTAIN AMY  
TIPSON FOR CELLBRITE  
MACHINE TRAINING -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the is the approval for training at the cost of \$4,896.89 for Deputy Captain Amy Tipson for the Cellbrite machine. We talked about that previously in the last couple of weeks ago. And so, is there a motion to make that payment for approval?

Ray Minor made a motion to approve training at the cost of \$4,896.89 for Deputy Captain Amy Tipson. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said documents an email and invoice are made a part of these minutes.

**JDC HEAT & AIR  
CONDITIONER  
REPLACEMENT BY HSG  
MECHANICAL -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the is the approval to pay for heating and air conditioner replacement at the Juvenile Detention Center by HSG Mechanical for \$87,300.

Kevin Weston: I would like to; I know this is a lot of money and I would like to explain this a little bit. This is two rooftops RT use and it is two units that are on the ground basically even and air furnaces and air conditioning, the stuff that we have got there is 27 years old. We are living on borrowed time. Anything we do put into the building will be new and that will also probably lower the heating and cooling costs. However, I am suggesting, and I will talk, basically I would like

to table this until we figure out exactly where we are with the money coming, the ARPA money, so that once we get the emergency management operations bid, we can, if we have the money to put into the building, we will do it. We need to do this, but I think, I hate to spend the money and then suddenly find out where we are hurting. So, you would be willing to use that out of the part of money I would like. Yeah. Okay.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: So, you want to hold off on that? Are those units functioning at this point?

Kevin Weston: Yes. Do you guys have any discussion or do you think that is a wise move or would like you said they are 20 some years old and we are going to continue to use the building. You said that. So, we have that we, this bid is a little bit old there.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Is it a viable bid?

Kevin Weston: Yeah, I think it is. Yeah. I need to call HSG, but I am pretty sure they have given us that they have done work there for us. They have done work. There are four units in the building that we are just replacing two. But I probably need to bid this out for that to get this. But this is, I think we should, I just need to table it for right now because A, it is a big expense. We are not sure where we are at on our funds yet. And I would really like, I like HSG, but the problem is they do our stuff there at that building. I probably need to get another, the company who bid that also. But let us get this on our radar. It is alright. At this point if you will do that and we will table this.

Said proposal is made a part of these minutes.

**SPACE SAVERS FOR  
CAMPBELL BUILDING  
STORAGE AREA - 1%  
FUNDING - APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the is the approval for the space savers for the Campbell building using the 1% money. We discussed this earlier this evening at the Committee meeting. Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk has indicated that he can get that broke down to below 30,000 on separate bids to accomplish what he wants to do.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Yes, sir.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Is there a motion to do that?

John Gossett: Can I ask a question? I spoke to the States Attorney Dinn, she indicated we should be getting a second bid.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Why didn't we get a second bid on the one downstairs?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: What was the amount on it?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: 79,000.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We messed up. We did, I guess. I think Abby, you are saying we need to get another?

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: It is my understanding that over 30,000 requires a second bid.

Kevin Weston: And I think you paid for part of that too. Out of the out-court fund, right?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Yes.

Kevin Weston: That might have been

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: both of them were still over. Okay.

Neil Hargis: Could you not have him, the guy doing it itemized to doing this with a certain amount of the money and doing that with the other amount of money?

Chairman J.Larry Miller: Keep it under 30,000 projects?

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: It is two separate projects and they are both under 30,000 then that is not a bid. It is presented as a full project of 57,000. So, if you are looking at one whole project of 57,000, then you would need another bid.

Brad Wilson: Okay. But the way you have, it, it is written is there is not enough. There is not an amount. We are just saying that we are approving for the Space Savers. There is no amount or how the project is going to be done. That is vague. The motion would be vague, right?

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: That is what it looks like, that is what it says on the agenda.

John Gossett: We being informed we are it is to be a problem. If we do it, so let us not do that.

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: Just advising you that.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Could we approve this with the stipulation that we are going to have it bid out and then it gets into the problem, Jim, that you may not get the person you want. Right?

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Right.

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: Well, what are you approving though? I mean, if you are going to prove that he can seek bids?

Kevin Weston: Well, truthfully, there is no hurry in starting the project. If Jim would maybe get another company come in and get said, chances are

they are going to be higher than somebody is already working. Been working here, working. We get another bid. We put on the December meeting. We will be fine.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Let us do this.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Are you required to take the low bid?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I do not think so, necessarily.

Kevin Weston: We are not always required to take the low bid.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: But we are required to have another bid. Let us do this, Jim, I am going to take some legal ease here and I am going to table this tonight and we will bring it back. We will have a little bit more. Okay. Okay. Thank you.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: You're welcome.

**DELINQUENT TAX FOR  
NOVEMBER -  
RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Delinquent Tax Program resolutions for November 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. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-27 and 2023-36.

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S  
SALARY - RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution adopting appropriating funds for the payment of the county engineer's salary.

Kevin Weston: IDOT has already decided what the next year's county engineers will make. And by us, even though we hired Matt, even though he just got hired, the salary goes from January to January. So, we are basically agreeing so that we get, we are within that range of paying the highway engineer what we do so that we get compensated by the state for his hours. So, this is just a formality.

Kevin Weston made a motion to appropriate the funds for the payment of County Highway Engineer's salary. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of this minutes as Resolution No. 2023-37.

**COUNTY FEDERAL-AID  
MATCHING TAX FUND -  
RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution on the County Federal Aid Matching tax fund, which was discussed in the Committee meeting earlier this evening.

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

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-38.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY  
APPELLATE PROSECUTOR  
- RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution for the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor and he recommends approval and then he explained the county share of the salary for the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor.

Abby Dinn, States Attorney: Every year. The appellate prosecutor's office handles all our appeals. They also handle several of our special



prosecutor cases that my office has conflict, with for one reason or another. Sometimes I represented the defendant in the same case. Previously when I was in private practice. Sometimes it could be that one of my staff is a victim. I know I have a prosecutor case, special prosecutor on one of those cases. So, the appellate prosecutor's office requires a resolution by the county. They, every year it is already budgeted in our budget. It is \$18,000 per year that we send to the appellate prosecutor's office to handle all our appeals at the appellate court and the Supreme Court. And then also the special prosecutor cases in this county. So, it is something that has done every year for the last two years, they lowered the amount to \$17,000. They gave us a thousand dollars break because of Covid, but now they have raised it back up again to \$18,000. But this is how we get the appeals. Otherwise, the county would've to hire an enormous number of staff to handle all our appellate work.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Neil Hargis seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-39.

**ANNUAL BUDGET -  
ORDINANCE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next two items on the agenda is the Annual Budget and Annual Levy. Chairman J. Larry Miller informed the County Board that we are going to table those two items and we thought about a continued meeting, but I think what we will do is call a special meeting next week to adopt those. We will have to do that. Okay. Will you allow me to do that? Alright. Thank you.

Kevin Weston: If we do a special meeting, we probably take under consideration of the warming center.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: And if Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk had his stuff, are you in a big hurry I mean, we will see. Okay.

Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk: Hey, I will have your bids if you will put it on the agenda for the special meeting, I promise you I will have your bids. Okay.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright, we will do that. Alright, thank you.

**ANNUAL LEVY -  
ORDINANCE**

The Annual Levy is with the Annual Budget section.

**ARCHIMAGES - EOC 911  
CENTER - ARPA  
FUNDING**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the ArchImages - EOC 911 Center using the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. We do not have any further 1% on the Campbell building. Mr. Weston you want to speak to those?

Kevin Weston: Like I said, we met on Wednesday of last week to go over the 25% completion of the construction documents for the Emergency Management Operations center. Things are moving along well, we are going to have another meeting here in December, so if anybody would like to attend that.

No vote took place.

**MARLER - EOC 911  
CENTER - ARPA  
FUNDING**

This information is the same as the previous item - Archimaged - EOC 911 Center.

**HIGHWAY 37 NORTH  
WATER DISTRICT - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Highway 37 North Water Board.

John Gossett: First one I asked. Highway 37. Okay. And the reason for that is an independent board. I do not know how we thought we had control over it, but we put place people on off it. But I researched it and discovered it is an independent

board. It has got six Williamson County members, one Franklin County member. They appoint their own and so not, anyway.

**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 Cemetery Association Board. Chairman J. Larry Miller read a letter from the Miner's Cemetery of Royalton Cemetery Association Board requesting Vivian Hodgeman be replaced by Lisa Keogh and Ron Colson be replaced with Lisa Staggs to fill their unexpired terms ending March 1, 2028.

Curtis Overton made a motion to fill the unexpired terms as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said letter is made a part of these minutes.

**REND LAKE AREA  
TOURISM COUNCIL - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council. Chairman J. Larry Miller explained that this appointment is to replace Kristy Vercellino who resigned and also to change the expiration year to 2023 for this new member so the nine member board are grouped in threes for their expiration years. Chairman J. Larry Miller recommends Christie Sweeley to replace Kristy Vercellino's unexpired term ending December 31, 2023.

Curtis Overton made a motion to accept the recommendation made by the Chairman J. Larry Miller. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**SHERIFF'S MERIT  
BOARD - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Sheriff's Merit Board and he asked Ray Minor if he had any information yet. Ray Minor replied - not at this time. Chairman J. Larry Miller informed the County Board that this appointment must be tabled at this time.

**U OF I EXTENSION  
BOARD - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the U of I Extension Board. Chairman J. Larry Miller recommends replacing Mark Kash with Parker Hutchcraft, who is the manager of Franklin County Farm Bureau and does work with Extension. So, I am recommending this appointment.

Ray Minor made a motion appointing Parker Hutchcraft to the U of I Extension Board to replace Mark Kash for a one year term ending August 31, 2024 as recommended by the Chairman J. Larry Miller. Brad Wilson seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

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

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated the next item on the agenda are the October, 2023 monthly reports from the Franklin County Clerk, and Sheriff, the Coroner did not have an October report at this time.

Kevin Weston made motion to approve the reports as presented. Jack Warren seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

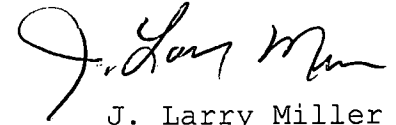
**CLOSED SESSION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is a closed session and this is not needed at this time.

**RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller asked the Board if there were any questions. Jack Warren 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