

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Oct 16, 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, Ray Minor, Curtis Overton, and Brad Wilson. Jack Warren, and Kevin Weston were absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Kyle Bacon, County Sheriff; Ryan Buckingham, Director of Emergency Management Agency; Marty Leffler, County Coroner; Lorie LeQuatte, Franklin-Johnson-Massac-Williamson Regional Superintendent; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; Judge Melissa Morgan and other interested parties.

PLEDGE

Curtis Overton lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Tom Carter: Yes, I am here. This juvenile detention facility, the language on it. I know that we passed it, the bill of the thing, but I talked to our treasurer and I said Well how much tax was assessed for that? He said that there was never, that the tax part was never implemented. So, when we are talking about well, we will lose this tax, how can we lose the tax if we never implemented it? And that is my question for you. How much money are we losing? So, Mr. Vercellino, would you like to tell them on what we know about the juvenile

facility tax, how much money we get from it, how it even exists?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, he is asking you the question and you responded. I mean it is news to me because we collect the tax that we pay on the facility itself when it was constructed and so we have bonds out and we collect the tax and we are paying those bonds with that real estate tax.

Tom Carter: But he is saying that even the previous treasurer said that they did not implement the tax.

Brad Wilson: How are we paying for it?

Tom Carter: I do not know.

Steve Vercellino: So of course, you got it in your state's attorney. So, I do not know how detailed you guys have gone into this. I just know what I was told from the previous treasurer. He had mentioned that there is on the levy, which I think that is what we are discussing here is based on the levee see a bond issuance line which we are using to pay the detention center. So that is how it is getting paid. But his understanding was that there is a difference between it being like that line being directly only for the sole purpose of the detention center and it being used as the county being able to pay for bonds regardless of what type up to a certain amount. His understanding was that it is if we did not have that detention center to use that for, we could use that for a different bond issuance if we so desire up to a certain amount. But there was some weird nuance to that about it related to when the jail was done years ago, there was a certain amount and some statute and that is why it started getting murky for me. But that is what I was told.

Brad Wilson: We took out a bond correct to pay for the building. We took a bond out to pay for the building and then the tax that is levied is going to

pay back. Is that what is currently paying that bond?

Steve Vercellino: That tax is currently paying that bond but that tax isn't the way that he understood it wasn't for the sole purpose as in if we pay off, does that tax go away?

Brad Wilson: How are you understanding that. The same way he is?

Steve Vercellino: That is the thing. It is kind of over the scope of my understanding of it. So, I am just taking his word for it, because he had been in this office for been for about a decade and he was around close to the time of this project was implemented. So, me coming in in 2018 facility has been long running. So that is where the information that I have on it, of course you have got your attorney, you have got the state's attorney that can dig deeper into any legal nuance that I do not have a, you know, actual license to practice law, that they would. Have more of an opinion on that.

Brad Wilson: But currently that tax that was laid currently is going to pay that loan?

Steve Vercellino: Correct. I will agree on that partly.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Kind of aggravates me. Okay. I really think that you are talking about something you are not sure about yourself, is that correct? It is all hearsay.

Steve Vercellino: It is based on the treasurer who was around during the time when this was completed. So yes, I do not have a license to practice or have legal opinion on it.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: But you do not have a direct answer for him on that. He is questioned it and he questioned it because you told him that that

tax could go on afterwards. That is news to me. Alright. And I have investigated some of this and I am frustrated that it is one thing to say... I think this but you are just not sure about it. Are you? Yes, or no?

Steve Vercellino: Am I a hundred percent sure? No, I am not.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Thank you.

Tom Carter: We need to be finding out where we stand with this.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Sure.

Tom Carter: We are tax level before we make any decisions just to know where we are at because if we are not being, we are not taxing the public and is it on the real estate tax? Is there sales tax?

Chairman J. Larry Miller: No, it is a real estate tax.

Tom Carter: Well, I never see it on my bill.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Well, its part of the funding of the Franklin County. When you look at that line item that I think it is the first line item I believe and that is in that number. I will be glad to show it to you if you show me your tax bill. Okay.

Tom Carter: Well, it does not say. I would not know. So, it would be nice to know.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: There are several in the Franklin County that line for the Franklin County District or for the county, there are several items in there that are separated out. There's insurance and I got to be careful here. I do not know all the answers to that but there are several things in that line.

Tom Carter: Okay. I am trying to understand if we are going to do something, why we are doing it.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Okay, thank you. Anyone else have any public comment tonight? Alright, if not, we are ready to move on. We need to approve this.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Brad Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular County Board Meeting and October 2, 2023 Special County Board Meeting. Neil Hargis 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.

FOP & FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the Illinois FOP and Franklin County Sheriff Collective Bargaining agreement for Deputy Sheriff, Correctional Officer, Court Security Officer, Telecommunicator, Records Clerk and Process Clerk for the period December 1, 2022 thru November 30, 2025.

John Gossett made a motion to accept the Illinois FOP and Franklin County Sheriff Collective Bargaining agreement as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of this minutes as Agreement No. 2023-12.

PCO #061 AGREEMENT

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Prime Contract Potential Change Order #061 (PCO #061): R.F.P. #17 - Door Changes in the new courthouse.

Curtis Overton: That's the doors upstairs and the safety issues.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: We need a motion and that will be paid out of the courthouse fund. Is that correct?

Curtis Overton: That is what I have. The information I have, yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Alright. Is there a motion to approve that agreement?

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the PCO #061 as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Any discussion on the motion? It is often frustrating to me that we must pay this and that it was not done to begin with. I do not understand why that happened, but it seems like a detail that a 15 second delay. I do not know the answer to it, but that's Miller's opinion. I am on a rant tonight.

**AMR THIRD AMENDMENT
TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the AMR Third Amendment to Emergency Medical Services Agreement with Franklin County that we have talked about previously.

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

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2023-13.

**2024 CALENDAR -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the 2024 County Calendar for County Board & Committee meetings, Holidays and Pay Days.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the 2024 County Calendar as presented. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said 2024 County Calendar is made a part of these minutes.

**JUVENILE DETENTION
CENTER TAX
REFERENDUM LANGUAGE
- APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Juvenile Detention Center Tax Referendum Language and he stated that this item will be tabled at this time.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: I want to make a statement here. I have offended Mr. Gossett tonight and I did not intend to do that sir. And I want you to know that I respect you and I, all of you. I have tried my very best to hear you out and I am sorry for that.

John Gossett: Its forgiven, Larry.

Chairman J. Larry Miller: Thank you. I appreciate that.

**EASEMENT BETWEEN K &
E TECHNICAL, INC. TO
RASCAL X-PRESS -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the new easement from K & E Technical Inc. to Rascal X-Press (Amy Harlan) which was discussed in the Finance Committee Meeting earlier this evening.

Brad Wilson made a motion to accept the easement as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said easement is made a part of these minutes as document number 2023-4272.

**RESOLUTION -
AUTHORIZING AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL
AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the resolution for authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS Master Agreement 2022) this was discussed at a previous committee meeting.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the resolution for authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System as well as the agreement for the

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution and agreement are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-20 and Agreement No. 2023-14 respectfully.

**OCTOBER DELINQUENT
TAX - RESOLUTIONS**

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 for the month of October.

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

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-21 thru 2023-25.

**SCANNING FOR CIRCUIT
CLERK**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is using the 1% funding for the scanning that is being done for the Circuit Clerk for Janis Manis & Kay Kearney salaries.

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

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

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
HOSPITAL BOARD - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the appointment to the Franklin County Hospital Board and he informed the County Board that last month Cindy Metcalf was appointed to replace Mary Stevens but Cindy Metcalf has declined the appointment. Chairman J. Larry Miller recommends appointing Julie Boles to replace Cindy Metcalf unexpired term ending August 31, 2026.

Neil Hargis made a motion to appoint Julie Boles to the Franklin County Hospital Board. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**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 stated that this appointment needs to be tabled at this time.

**PLUMFIELD WATER
DISTRICT - 5
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are five appointments to the Plumfield Water District and he read a letter from Chairman Marty Gayer of the Plumfield Water District requiring Andy Chismar be appointed to replace Dave Bartoni's unexpired term ending May 1, 2024; Travis Eastwood be appointed to replace Rodney Summers's unexpired term ending May 1, 2025; Joe Jackanicz be appointed to replace Jim McPhail Jr.'s unexpired term ending May 1, 2026; Cynthia Dutton be appointed to replace Mike Smith's unexpired term ending May 1, 2027 and Wayne Bejmovicz be appointed to replace Carl Lee's unexpired term ending May 1, 2027.

Neil Hargis made a motion to approve all five appointments as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted 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 and stated that this appointment needs to 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 and stated that this appointment needs to be tabled at this time.

**COUNTY CLERK,
CORONER & SHERIFF
REPORTS**

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

Brad Wilson 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.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is a closed session and we are going to close session for discussion of negotiations and personnel we will not be taking any action. Is there a motion to go into executive session?

Brad Wilson made a motion at 6:22 p.m. to have a closed session. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**


Curtis Overton made a motion to resume the open meeting at 6:55 p.m. John Gossett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT

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