

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Sep 18, 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, Jack Warren, and Kevin Weston. Brad Wilson was absent.

Also in attendance were Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager; Amos Abbott, E-911 Director; Ryan Buckingham, Director of Emergency Management Agency; Abby Dinn, States Attorney; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; Matt Barnett, County Engineers 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Kevin Weston made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2023 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. Neil Hargis seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**EXAMINATION FOR
COUNTY ENGINEER -
RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the first item on the agenda is the resolution to certify the names to take the examination for county engineers. The Franklin County Board identifies Matthew Barnett and certify his name to take the examination for Franklin County Engineer.

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

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-18.

**TAX LEVY FOR
FRANKLIN-WILLIAMSON
BI-COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT -
RESOLUTION**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution for the annual Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department Annual Tax Levy for fiscal year beginning December 1, 2023, and ending November 30, 2024 and he explained the dollar amounts are provided by the Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department. This is an annual thing that we do. Bi-County Health Department develop the budget and then they therefore allow us to adopt a levy for them. Common practice in years past.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the annual tax levy as presented. Kevin Weston seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2023-19.

**U OF I EXTENSION
FY25 BUDGET -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the U of I Extension proposed FY25 budget. Chairman J. Larry Miller explained, this was done by resolution referendum many years ago and the County Board must approve the budget to allow U of I Extension to levy a tax on this resolution.

Jack Warren made a motion to approve this resolution as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**FOP LABOR CONTRACT -
APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the FOP Labor Contract. Chairman J. Larry Miller explained, we are going to table, we do not have the final language in this contract. We agreed in the principle, but we do not have that language, because of that, we are not going to deal with that and going table the contract at this time.

**EASEMENT FROM MORHET
TO KNICKMEYER -
APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the to approve the easement from Morhet to Knickmeyer proposal that was presented by Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments to everyone earlier in committee meeting.

Neil Hargis made a motion to approve the easement as presented. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said easement is made a part of these minutes.

**2022 AUDIT -
APPROVAL**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the 2022 Audit report.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the 2022 Audit as presented. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said audit is made a part of these minutes.

**2024 HOLIDAY
SCHEDULE - APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the 2024 Holiday Schedule and the Administrative Order approved by the Circuit Judges of the Second Judicial Circuit, State of Illinois.

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

Said 2024 Holiday Schedule and Administrative Order are made a part of these minutes.

**JDC - ADVANCED
SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the Juvenile Detention

**INC. - CONTROL
SYSTEM REPLACEMENT -
APPROVE**

Center, for the control system replacement quote, at a cost of \$108,560 and the provider is JDC Advance Systems Technology, Inc. Now will you allow me to suggest? I want this to specifically to come out of the general fund. Then because we have now had some money in our fund, you recall in the reports we had more cash than we have had and I am weary a little bit of using our fund for everything and I want the amount that we have paid that we use here be shown in the budget of the Juvenile Detention Center. So, we get a clear picture of how much we are spending versus our income in that area. And I would like to do that on all of the four items that are listed. That's my request. Okay. I know, I just think this is time. We've improved our situation an awful lot in the last two years in the general fund and I think that we need to begin to take responsibility out in that fund for some of this.

Ray Minor made a motion for this to be paid out of the general fund. Kevin Weston seconded the motion.

John Gossett stated: May, I say a few words, if we do not do this, obviously we are going to owe 1.3 million, that we cannot pay of we cannot pay because we cannot tax. So, I am against it on one hand, but I voting for it, I am voting yes on it for that reason.

Chairman J. Larry Miller explained: As Chairman, can I speak to the motion? My position has changed a little bit in the last couple of months about this whole thing. The reality is that the voters in Franklin County a few years ago passed this representative that created the juvenile detention center and the ability to pay the debt that we have on to build a facility, whatever we think about, whatever, there is a reality of this board has a responsibility to do what the voters in Franklin County said to do.

And I know we have fiscal responsibility and that is a real problem, but we do have a responsibility to maintain that facility and not turn our backs on it. And so I've changed my mind and since I've been on the board, the frustration that I've had with that situation has been great. But, still yet, we really, I think we have a responsibility to take care of that facility because of what the voters in this county has said in the past. Now we can look at doing away with it, but that is down the road. Today, this board has a responsibility, maintain that facility and if there are other possibilities down the road, the money we spend here is also would be good for that facility for a change of if there ever occurred, a change of use to that facility.

Angela Evans stated: Can I add something too? I just wanted to say I feel the same way that Chairman J. Larry Miller does and I know some of the boards. That is our responsibility and we do want to make sure that we are living up to the responsibility of the county of paying and having the Juvenile Detention function able. The reason why I had voted no for the bill that we got last time was because I did request bids. When you present me with something, I want to make sure that I'm being a good steward of money and this is actually the lowest bid. So from this point on, if there is something that is going to go for the facility, I would like to see where you had either got two or three bids to make sure that when you're bringing this and you're saying, Hey, I got the cheapest person. I wanted to have verification of that. So I appreciate you adding those bids on this time. So, I will be changing my vote also to, Yes.

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated: Thank you. Anyone else? I do have the bids here for you all.

Angela Evans stated: Yep. Nope, I got it. Thank you. Okay.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said quote is made a part of these minutes.

**JDC - ADVANCED
SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY
INC. - ANNUAL
MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENT - APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the Juvenile Detention Center, for the judicial system, the annual maintenance agreement per that system. That is and the hope that we have for \$3,840 and taking that out of the general fund.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Angela Evans seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2023-11.

**JDC - ADVANCED
SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY
INC. - CAMERA SYSTEM
UPGRADE - APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the Juvenile Detention Center, the camera system quote. Upgrade for the amount of \$27,265. Hopefully to come out the general fund.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the camera system upgrade. Ray Minor seconded the motion.

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated: Any discussion on the motion? I want to say this and I could have said it on the first motion, but I was frustrated that we didn't get this done last month. I was absent. I had several things that I wanted to say and line this thing so that we could have got it passed last month. But I had an emergency, it had to be gone and so I thought I had everything lined, but I didn't know I was going to be going on that night. So anyway, it was kind of a surprise. So I appreciate you moving forward with this. Is there any other discussion? If not, we're ready to vote.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said quote is made a part of these minutes.

**JDC - VALLEY
SECURITY COMPANY -
DOOR LOCK.CYLINDERS
- APPROVE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the base bid proposal for the Juvenile Detention Center, with Valley Security, the door locked cylinders and installation and testing for \$57,400 out of the general fund.

Kevin Weston made a motion to get the door locks installed. Angela Evans seconded the motion.

Ray Minor stated: I think I would like to add something. There is still going to be a lot more that is going to come because we are still, when we look at that estimated proposal, there is still a lift station that needs to be repaired and a lot more that has that needs to be done to get this thing up.

Angela Evans stated: In the meantime, we will be able, because I thought you said that there had been funds, like John Gossett had mentioned there was funds in the Juvenile Detention account. Is there in the meantime, can we use any of those funds as well for some of the things that are on that list?

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated: Well, I do not think there is dollars there. You see what I mean? An operating budget. Yeah. So there is no reserve fact this. Well, I am going to get into that.

Ray Minor stated: Either way we will have this is going to fix it.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said bid proposal is made a part of these minutes.

**ANNUAL CLEANING
CAMPBELL BUILDING
FLOORS - OMS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the annual cleaning of the Campbell Building Floors & Carpet by OMS Floors presented an estimate of \$6,190.50. You want to speak to that Kevin Weston?

Kevin Weston stated: We have had OMS Floors, which does the cleaning here at the courthouse. Give us a price on doing the floors over there again. They are going to strip and strip and clean and then re wax all the vinyl tile floor on the first and second on the basement as well as they will clean the carpets and do all that. So, I think we owe it to people of Franklin County as well as our employees to provide a clean and clean environment. And I just want to make sure we're following up on this every year.

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated: Okay. What is your opinion of where we draw this from? How about the general fund? It's an annual thing that we need to do. Sure.
I know what you are thinking. We keep spending a lot of money tonight, but we got to do it.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the annual floor cleaning at the Campbell building. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said estimate is made a part of these minutes.

**AWARD BID TO PAUL
MILLER CONSTRUCTION
FOR CORONER'S OFFICE**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to award of Paul Miller Construction bid of \$168,924 for the coroner's office. And I assume that would be taken out, ARPA funding.

John Gossett made a motion that 168,924 for to Paul Miller Construction, for the coroner's office. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said bid is made a part of this minutes.

**COMM SQUAD - 1%
FUNDING (COURTROOMS)**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is the Comm squad for the courtroom. And you're going to have to remind me what that is by Kevin Weston.

County Board Office Manager, Gayla Sink Prather stated: That was for all four courtrooms. It had been done quite some time ago and the billing just got in.

Kevin Weston stated: Doing was getting the images where they had update system a little bit. We need to do it continue. In the amount of \$5,836 to be paid from the 1% funding. Basically, they are having to rewire from the judge's bench to the monitor. This is a one-time cost to ongoing.

Jack Warren made a motion to approve the payment to Comm Squad. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

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

**AMERICAN WHOLESALE
REFRIGERATOR
(CORONER) - ARPA
FUNDING**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the purchase of the coolers for the coroner's new office. Do we have known that number to pass this Half up front? Why don't we do this? Let's just pay the, all, approve it to pay it all. Go through this. Okay. We know what we're doing. Alright, we'll have that matter. Okay. And we are ARPA using for that also. Alright. Is there a motion?

John Gossett made a motion to approve the payment in full for American Wholesale refrigerator. Curtis Overton 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 - 3
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are three appointments to the Franklin County Hospital Board and he recommends reappointing Don Cruz and Keith Ing. Chairman J. Larry Miller also recommends Cindy Metcalf to replace Mary Stevens who has passed away. The appoints are for a three year term ending August 31, 2026.

Jack Warren made a motion to approve the appoints to the Franklin County Hospital Board as recommended. Neil Hargis 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. I want to reappoint. I don't have, we don't have anybody to appoint those. They're both retirements that are going off. So we need to appoint two people. Folks on the west side of Vivian Hodgman and Ron Colson are retired off the board. So, we will table that one.

**MOSQUITO ABATEMENT
BOARD - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two appointments to the Mosquito Abatement Board down there at West Frankfort recommends to reappoint Pete Witkeniz and Terry Joiner to another four year term ending August 20, 2027.

John Gossett made a motion to reappoint Pete Witkeniz and Terry Joiner to the Mosquito Abatement Board. Ray Minor seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**PLUMFIELD WATER
DISTRICT - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman J. Larry Miller stated that the next item on the agenda are two appointments to the Plumfield Water Board. They are all up to date, so I will table that these appointments 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 University of Illinois Extension board. And I do not have a

nominee for that one, so this will need to be tabled at this time.

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

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

Jack Warren made motion to approve the reports as presented. Curtis Overton 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. We'll not be taking any business or any action after the closed session. And I would need a motion from board to go closed session. 6:50 pm.

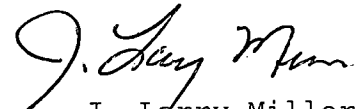
Angela Evans made a motion to have a closed session. Curtis Overton seconded the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**


Curtis Overton made a motion to resume the open meeting at 8:05 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. John Gossett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Neil Hargis 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