

DATE: September 3, 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
- (x) Ray Minor – 911/Emergency Services
- (x) Curtis Overton
- (x) David Bartoni
- (x) Kevin Weston
- (x) Brad Wilson – Juvenile Detention Center

County Offices

- ( ) Amos Abbott, Director 911
- (x) Kyle Bacon, Sheriff
- (x) Matt Barnett, County Engineer
- (x) Ryan Buckingham, Director EMA 5:21 (Phone)
- ( ) Abigail Dinn
- ( ) Darla Fitzgerrell, Court Services
- (x) Marty Leffler, Coroner
- ( ) Lorie LeQuatte, ROE
- (x) Cynthia Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments
- ( ) Judge Melissa Morgan
- (x) Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk
- (x) Gayla Prather, County Board Office Manager
- ( ) Monica Urban, Probation
- (x) Steve Vercellino, Treasurer
- (x) Bobbie Williams, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (and subject of those stating public comments)...Donnie Miklos, Steve Vercellino, and other interested parties that attended. No Public Comments.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending and the subject of those stating public comments.

Chairman Gossett asked for reports....

Sheriff Kyle Bacon...

- Gave his report which can be seen on [www.franklincountyil.gov](http://www.franklincountyil.gov) as 9-3-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 1.
- Discussion followed concerning the School Resource Deputies. 104 hours per week of the time the officers are at the school is being reimbursed by the schools.
- He is still in the process of increasing the “per day cost” of federal inmate holding.
- Also still working on changes for the healthcare of the inmates.
- Talked to the board about a type of x-ray body scanning machine that would be of value for the safety of the officers and also the inmates. Cost of the machine is around \$150,000. Discussion followed.

Coroner Marty Leffler...

- Has had an out of County autopsy
- Coolers have already paid for itself.
- Also gave his August report which can be seen on [www.franklincountyil.gov](http://www.franklincountyil.gov) as 9-3-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 2.
- Has one of his staff considering retirement.
- Again, he thanked the board for the new Coroner’s office.

Chairman Gossett asked Animal Control Supervisor Bobbie Williams to explain the problem about the Animal Control Building. She explained that a problem with the drainage system often causes rain getting into the building and has done this since she began as Supervisor.

EMA Director Ryan Buckingham (on Phone) gave his report...

- Time of the year for visiting towns to discuss weather preparedness.
- Also working on the grants that will be used on the future EOC.

County Board Chairman J. Larry Miller...

- September 4<sup>th</sup> is a Special meeting concerning Employee Insurance and a correction of the raise for EMA Director Ryan Buckingham.
- September 5<sup>th</sup>, he and Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments will be having a meeting with the Township Supervisors to discuss the problems with the county assessments.
- Audit is still expected by the end of September.
- Board Member Angela Evans passed a copy of a Resolution concerning migrants and/or asylum seekers entering Franklin County and asked for it to be considered for the next Board Meeting. The Proposed Resolution can be seen on [www.franklincountyil.gov](http://www.franklincountyil.gov) as 9-3-2024 Public Safety Committee Meeting Attachment 3.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

Minutes submitted 09/12 /2024

John Gossett, Chairman – Public Safety Committee

DATE: September 16, 2024

**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
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- ( ) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (and subject of those stating public comments)...Tami Price, Steve Vercellino, John Aaron Gulley(Bid Muddy Real Estate Investment Company) and other interested parties that attended.

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 by Chairman John Gossett. See above lists of those attending and the subject of those stating public comments.

Chairman Gossett asked for reports....

Sheriff Kyle Bacon...

- Mentioned that he is currently 80% over his budget.
- This has been due to overtime, fuel prices, health care for inmates.

Coroner Marty Leffler...

- Has one of his staff retiring September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The Pathologist has been back and he brought lots of supplies he uses. That's a good sign that he does like our facility.
- He has sent pictures and information about our Coroner's office to coroners in other counties.
- He mentioned that today is the 1 year anniversary for 3 local teenagers that died in a car wreck.
- He also asked for prayer for his wife Alisa. She has a grapefruit size solid mass and it is causing a lot of pain on her back. Will be going to see an oncologist Friday in St. Louis.

Chairman Gossett asked Animal Control Supervisor Bobbie Williams about a second quote needed for repair on the Animal Control area. She did have that quote for tonight's County Board meeting from FW Electric for \$9,530.00.

EMA Director Ryan Buckingham (on Phone) gave his report...

- Time of the year for visiting towns to discuss weather preparedness. EMA was at Maid Rite in Christopher this past Saturday.
- Safety days coming up in October.

County Board Chairman J. Larry Miller...

- Budget meetings will be starting soon.
- If board members are interested in the Resolution concerning immigrants, please let him know and it will be on the October Agenda
- He has put together a letter to be in the next payroll, requesting those employees who have insurance through the county, to fill out a questionnaire that is also included.
- The Board is trying to give employees a good health provider as they have now, and also to keep cost down for the county.
- Is doing some investigation about solar farms, and, if needed, to be sure that the county is covered.
- The meeting with Township Supervisors went well.
  1. He and Supervisor of Assessment Cindy Miklos had explained to them about the problems created throughout the county with assessments not being consistent.
  2. He assured the supervisors that we are not trying to get rid of township government.
  3. There is a motion on the following agenda concerning hiring an assessor to work in various areas of the county.
  4. The assessor would not be looking for properties that are already assessed but properties that have not been assessed.

Chairman Gossett will be looking into wages for parttime employees...

- January 2025, minimum wage does go to \$15.00/hour.
- He would like to see if the county could do better than that.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM

Minutes submitted 10/03 /2024

John Gossett, Chairman – Public Safety Committee