

COUNTY OF MENARD     )  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS     )

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, **September 28, 2021** at 6:00 p.m. at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Jeff Fore, Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, and Rich Brauer were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Martha Gum, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, County Treasurer Pam Bauser, State’s Attorney Gabe Grosboll, and Sheriff Mark Oller were also present. Chairperson Bob Lott was absent.

Interim Chairperson Jeff Fore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the September 14, 2021 regular board meeting and the August 2021 monthly departmental expense reports. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried with four ‘ayes’, no ‘nays’, and one absent.

**Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests**

Daphne Clark, a Sunny Acres Nursing Home employee, was in attendance and expressed her concern for staff leaving for higher paying/less stressful employment.

Tom Eldridge, Chair of the Menard County Zoning Board of Appeals, was in attendance to address the current zoning procedures. He’s recommending that some of the ordinance language be updated. A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to courtesy notices being sent to neighboring property owners when a variance is being requested.

Eric and Gail Adamski and Paul and Heather Hull were present regarding variances which they had individually presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was noted that in each instance, not all of the property owners within 400 feet of the proposed variance properties had been notified. State’s Attorney Gabe Grosboll recommended that the process for the proposed variances begin all over with all surrounding property owners within 400 feet of the variance request properties being notified. Commissioner Brauer moved to re-do the Adamski property variance, with no fee to them. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried with four ‘ayes’, no ‘nays’, and one absent.

Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve the re-do of the Hull property zoning variance with no fee to them. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried with four ‘ayes’, no ‘nays’, and one absent.

**EMS/Community Services Department Report/Requests for Board Action**

Mike Burg, EMS/EMA Administrator, was in attendance and provided an overview of activities and issues related to his office. He requested Board consensus for using an

employee sign off sheet for EMS employees not wanting to receive the COVID vaccine. He also updated the board on upcoming personnel changes.

### **Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Highway Engineer Corey Dowd was in attendance and requested approval of the Local Public Agency Amendment #1 for Federal Participation for West Douglas Street construction. Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the request. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried with four 'ayes', no 'nays', and one absent.

### **Sheriff's Department Report/Request for Board Action**

County Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance reporting the current jail census at ten total inmates. He also updated the Board on an automobile accident on Gudgel Bridge Road which resulted in a rescue by Deputy Jeremy Foulk, discussed possible replacement of Starcom radios for the full time Deputies, and reported that he would like 9-1-1 to begin paying for Starcom monthly subscriptions with the new fiscal year. There was also a discussion regarding grant funding being made available for capital expenditures through Representative Tim Butler's efforts. The goal would be installation of new windows and doors to the courthouse.

### **County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Treasurer Pam Bauser was in attendance and updated the Board on the delinquent taxes which entails 197 parcels. The tax sale will be held on October 19, 2021. Bauser reported receipt of ARPA funds for Sunny Acres.

### **County Clerk's Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Clerk Marty Gum was in attendance and presented two liquor licenses for Board approval. Commissioner Cummings moved to approve both licenses. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried with four 'ayes', no 'nays', and one absent. She briefly informed the Board she will be mailing out permanent vote by mail applications in November. She also discussed a Veteran's Service Program available to Menard County, where Veteran's receive discounts from surrounding businesses, noting more information will be published in the local papers.

### **State's Attorney Report/Requests for Board Action**

State's Attorney Gabe Grosboll was in attendance and presented information on the Menard County farm lease that will be ending on November 1, 2021. He informed the Board there will be an auction held Tuesday, October 26, 2021, noting there will be updates made to the new lease. He that the Grand Jury which was held, Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, resulted in ten cases with ten indictments.

## **County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance and presented Health Department's bills for approval and payment. Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the payments. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried with four 'ayes', no 'nays', and one absent.

Coordinator Worthington also discussed items that included: County insurance renewal payment plan, ARPA funding test request submitted, lack of response from Hanson Information Systems regarding our insurance's cybersecurity policies. She discussed the Board needing to set salary increase rates for budget preparations, and an FOP mediation agreement. She reported that a citizen wanted to purchase five acres of county-owned farm ground for homesteading. It was the Board's consensus that the land is not for sale. She also added Menard County Tourism will be requesting \$30,000 of ARPA funding, EPA violations on the nursing home lagoon, survey of County owned parcel completion, GATA FY18 approved, FY19 under review, and FY20 to be corrected and re-submitted by October 31<sup>st</sup>, with action needed from independent auditor Michael Feriozzi.

## **Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action**

Commissioner Cummings discussed the fire alarm system bid for Sunny Acres/Countryside.

Commissioner Brauer discussed the unkept neighboring property of Animal Control and questioned if we should have the EPA investigate. A brief discussion ensued.

Approval of Change Order from Johnson Controls for Countryside Estate's fire alarm system. Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the change order. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried with four 'ayes', no 'nays', and one absent.

County Coordinator and State's Attorney Gabe Grosboll presented information on the reapportionment, from the most recent census information. They discussed the differences between two Commissioner's Districts. They discussed forming a committee consisting of the Republican Chairperson and Democratic Chairperson, along with State's Attorney Grosboll, Coordinator Worthington, County Clerk Gum, Assessor Kelton and two County Commissioners, and include a mapping expert from Beacon.

## **Adjournment**

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried with four 'ayes', no 'nays', and one absent.

