

COUNTY OF MENARD    )  
                                  )S.S.  
STATE OF ILLINOIS    )

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, **December 10, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. at the Menard County Highway Department, 15620 Chautauqua Road, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Bob Lott, Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, and Dalton Whitley were physically present. A quorum was present. States Attorney Gabe Grosboll, County Clerk Martha “Marty” Gum, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, Sheriff Mark Oller, and Treasurer Molly Bettis were also present. Commissioner Rich Brauer was absent.

County Clerk Marty Gum then called for nominations to serve as the Menard County Board of Commissioners’ Chairperson for the 2025 fiscal year (December 1, 2024, to November 30, 2025). Commissioner Whitcomb nominated Robert Lott to continue as the Menard County Board of Commissioners’ Chairperson for the 2025 fiscal year. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lott assumed the position as Chairperson.

Upon assuming the role of Chair, Commissioner Lott opened the floor for nominations for Interim Chairperson for the Menard County Board of Commissioners for the new year. Commissioner Cummings moved to nominate Commissioner Ed Whitcomb as the Interim Chairperson for Menard County Board of Commissioners for the fiscal year 2025. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lott welcomed the newest Commissioner Dalton Whitley.

Zoning Coordinator Gwen Thomas made recommendation that Chairperson Lott be authorized to execute the waiver and settlement agreement between Menard County and CG Pipe Creek LLC as it relates to tying into the Shockey Substation. Commissioner Whitcomb motioned for Chairperson Lott to have such authority. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Regular Minutes from the November 26, 2024 Board Meeting. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**EMS/EMA Report/Requests for Board Action**

Chief Huss was in attendance, and he conveyed that a department in Iowa would like to purchase our 3D10. He was asking for a consensus of the board to advertise the rig with sealed bids in order to possibly receive \$20,000. - \$22,000.00.

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

Corey Dowd, County Highway Engineer, was in attendance and placed before the commissioners Resolution 43-24 – FY25 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance. Commissioner Cummings motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 43-25**.

Engineer Dowd provided the board with an update on his department's projects.

### **Sheriff's Report/Requests for Board Action**

Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance and updated the Board on the current jail census at eight total inmates (four from Menard County and four from Cass County). He informed the Board about the red-lined FOP contract reporting that the signing was postponed due to the language in the contract. Sheriff Oller went over the changes to the contract and reported that the State's Attorney had reviewed it.

Commissioner Cummings inquired about the trees that were cut down at the courthouse. Sheriff Oller explained that there were three evergreens that were diseased, and they needed to come down. Possible plans for replacement were discussed.

### **County Treasurer Report/Request for Board Action**

County Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance and wanted to thank the board for the donation towards the County Christmas party. Treasurer Bettis updated the board on the FY22 audit and discussed the findings. Bettis presented the board with a packet of the findings along with the responses. Treasurer Bettis and indicated that the final property tax distribution is near completion and will soon be ready for distribution.

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

County Clerk Marty Gum was in attendance and informed the board of the collection of the tax levies and that they are due the last Tuesday of December. She also let the board know that we have received a lot of redemptions from the back taxes. Clerk Gum has also sent out a letter to the nine entities that hold liquor licenses. Commissioner Cummings motioned to approve the liquor licenses for Hill Prairie Winery, West of Wise, Wankel Bros, AM PM, Shambole, Indian Creek Farmstead, Country Hills, Parkside, and AMVETS. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Gum also went over the tax levies for the county and reiterated the County Clerk should not be calculating the levies for the county since those levies are recorded in her

office.

### **State's Attorney Gabe Grosboll**

States Attorney Grosboll was in attendance and brought to the attention of the board the purchasing of the Farm Bureau building. He made it known that a resolution needed to be passed and once passed, there should be a purchase and sale agreement. Commissioner Whitcomb motioned to approve the purchase and sale agreement for the Menard County Farm Bureau Building. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution 59-24 – Purchase of Real Estates/Menard County Farm Bureau**

Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve the purchase of the Menard County Farm Bureau Building along with the settlement agreement. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 59-24.**

State's Attorney Grosboll also informed the board that he attended the State Attorneys conference the first week of December.

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

Coordinator Worthington was in attendance and presented Health Department bill for payment approval. Commissioner Whitley moved to approve the payment. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Coordinator Worthington requested that Executive Session Minutes from June 11, 2019, SET B, remain closed while Executive Session Minutes from December 29, 2020, June 8, 2021, June 29, 2021, and May 30, 2024 be opened. Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Coordinator Worthington informed the board that she has no new updates on the spire to the dome or truss repair.

Worthington reported that she has a conference call with Vonage regarding our new phone system with contacts having also been made to Tech Electronics, Broadvoice, and Cass Communications.

Worthington provided updates as follows: Countryside Estate efficiencies; Athens Fancy Prairie Fire Protection District has submitted their Decennial Committee Report; county boardroom remodel update. It was the consensus of the board to not pursue a new board table as presented due to the price.

## **Other Scheduled Topics**

Approval of the 2025 Calendar of Regular Meetings of the Menard County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Whitcomb motioned for approval. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Personnel Policies Updates as prepared by Attorney Jane May. Commissioner Whitley motioned for approval. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 43-24** – Adoption of the Menard County Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct. Commissioner Cummings motioned for approval. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 44/57-24** – Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance and Tax Levies. Commissioner Cummings motioned for approval. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 58-24**- Reappointment of Amy Ruppel, Regina Fairow, Roderick Leamon, and Rick Boensel to the Menard County Rescue Squad for Three-Year Terms Expiring the Second Monday in December 2027. Commissioner Whitley motioned for approval. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Executive Session**

Commissioner Whitcomb moved to go into Executive Session, for the purpose of personnel and litigation at 6:13 p.m. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Cummings moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.