

**Jasper County Board Minutes**  
*COUNTY OF JASPER NEWTON, ILLINOIS*

County Office Building 204 W Washington St, Newton, IL 62448

April 18, 2024

The County Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by proclamation according to law by Sheriff Francis. Sheriff Francis led a moment in silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Bollman, Deckard, Geier, Heltsley, Judson, Pickens, Spiker, Warfel, and Weddell.

Public comments:

The 4-H Ambassadors promote the 4-H program on a local and county level while taking advantage of opportunities to expand upon their leadership skills and become valued members of their community. Accompanying the 4-H Ambassadors was Katie Turkal, Jasper County 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator. Katie spoke on the programs offered and the support from the county. The enrollment has increased from 220 to 230. If you have any questions about the Ambassadors or the local 4-H program you can contact Katie at [turkal@illinois.edu](mailto:turkal@illinois.edu) 618-783-2521 or Jessica at [jmwells@illinois.edu](mailto:jmwells@illinois.edu) 217-347-7773.

Jacob Janssen from Snedeker Risk Management introduced new team member Ted Whitehead former Clay County board member. 2024 Annual HopeTrust Meeting and Conference will be held Thursday, August 1- Friday, 2 at Ameristar Hotel & Conference Center in St. Charles, MO, allowing for more in-depth information by splitting the conferences into two. ICRMT Conference will be September 26 at East Peoria.

Apex Clean Energy will be at a future meeting, Apex Clean Energy recently announced plans for Wild Bergamont Wind following the reception of its Violet Solar project. Both projects if completed could provide significant tax revenue for the County. Over the lifetime of the projects, nearly \$25 million would come from Violet Solar and as much as \$90 million could come from Wild Bergamont.

Adoption of the agenda. There was no objection, the agenda was adopted as distributed.

Reports:

*County Departments*

**Ambulance** - March Ambulance Run Report: 911 – 80; Refusal/no patient contact – 16; Transfers – 25; Discharges – 5; Mutual Aid assists – 24; Total: 150

**Highway Department** – The oil letting for Jasper County and the townships was held on March 26, 2024. The prices were the same as last year. We are planning to oil 16 miles using Motor Fuel Tax Funds and 32.5 miles with Federal and State Match Funds.

The Electronic Recycling event was held on March 23, 2024, we collected 17,080 lbs., with no extra charges incurred. Interviews were held and Todd Probst was selected and will start on April 29, 2024. No bids were received by the deadline for opening bids on March 22, 2024, for the 2004 Peterbilt Solid Waste truck. Currently working with Trent Schmidt auction to sell the truck at the upcoming equipment auction. 4 applicants are on file for the open position and 2 have been interviewed.

**Board of Health** – Exterior of health department building is 90% complete, weather pending on completion. The move in date for the Olney office is projected for May 15<sup>th</sup>. A nurse will be at the power plant for their outage. A Health Fair will be held May 22 at West End Event Center. Safe Sitter Course will be held May 23. Next board of health meeting will be held June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### *County Positions/Services*

**Building Maintenance** – April 10 - Dale Ginder from Central Christian Church called and wanted permission to have National Day of Prayer Services on the courthouse lawn at noon on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Animal Control** – In Packet

#### *Elected Officials*

**Treasurer-** Reports from Bigard were sent in the board packet. The total income for March was \$233,105.48. The expenses for March were \$401,989.46. Total income less expenses for March a net loss of \$-168,883.98. Year to Date income was \$1,008,415.18. Less Expenses were \$1,312,484.56 with a net loss of \$-304,069.38.

**Other Elected Officials/Offices** - None

**Technology** – Fiber installation will be next week and there should be no major disruptions.

**Consent agenda** - The following items were on the consent agenda this evening: Approval of County Board March 21, 2024, Minutes; Appointment of A.C. Pickens to a 2-Year Term on the County Farmland Assessment Review Committee; File County Reports and Allow Claims. There was no objection, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

#### **Old Business**

**County Of Jasper/City of Newton Website** - ImagineThis! is continuing to work on the County of Jasper/City of Newton website. All initial content information has been submitted from the offices and departments. We are on pace to have a test site completed by the first part of June with a website going live by the end of June/first of July if all goes well.

**Energy Transition Community Grant** -The Deadline for Year 2 of the Energy Transition Community Grant was Friday, March 15, 2024. The next step will be review and approval by the State. Once approved an amount will be assigned and we are

responsible for holding a stakeholder/public meeting to discuss our proposed use of the funds. This is the same process as last year. A stakeholder/public meeting was held prior to tonight's meeting.

**2024 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Courthouse Square Streetscape Improvements** - This will be a constant agenda item for the foreseeable future. At the March 21, 2024, meeting, the board voted unanimously to proceed forward with a grant that would upgrade the street lighting and sidewalks on the county property of the courthouse square to look like the city property around the square. In addition, plans would be to add a handicapped parking space on the east side of the courthouse lawn. Applications for the grant are accepted starting later this year. The timing of the grant would coincide with any plans for the courthouse, and most likely take place after work on the building had been completed.

**Jasper County Courthouse** - This will be a constant agenda item for the foreseeable future. On February 15, 2024, the board voted unanimously to proceed forward with the demolition and new construction of the Jasper County Courthouse on the current site. On March 21, 2024, the board voted unanimously to select Architecture & Design Group, LTD. (ADG) and Stone & Waggoner Consulting Engineers as the Architectural & Engineering firm for the project. An agreement for Architectural & Engineering services was taken up under New Business. Once approved work will begin on preliminary plans for the new Courthouse.

#### **New Business:**

#### **Approve Agreement with Architecture & Design Group, Ltd. (Adg) And Stone & Waggoner Consulting Engineers for Architectural & Engineering Services – Courthouse Project -**

At the March 21, 2024, County Board meeting the board unanimously selected Architecture & Design Group, LTD. (ADG) and Stone & Waggoner Consulting Engineers as the Architectural & Engineering firm for the courthouse project. The agreement for architectural and engineering services was reviewed. Geier moved to approve the Architectural & Engineering Services Agreement with Architecture & Design Group, LTD. (ADG) and Stone & Waggoner Consulting Engineers for the Jasper County Courthouse Project. Spiker seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Architecture & Engineering Services Agreement has been approved.

**Adoption Of Resolution Establishing the Compensation of County Offices (Coroner) For Fy2025-2028** - At least 180 days before December 1, 2024 (June 4, 2024) the Jasper County Board must decide the compensation for the County Coroner (*FY2024 \$20,000 salary with \$96,000+ in total compensation*). Attached to the board packet was a resolution (the amount of compensation has not been inputted) for consideration as well as current compensation and salary compared to other counties. In addition to setting the coroner's compensation for FY2025-FY2028, the resolution also rescinds the following clause from the 2022 Resolution Establishing the Compensation for County Officers for FY2023-FY2026: *"That beginning after but not*

*applying to the general election to be held on November 8, 2022, any appointment to fill a vacancy or newly elected county office in the Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Clerk, County Sheriff, County Treasurer, or Supervisor of Assessments salary shall be 6% less than the salary otherwise listed above.”* Judson moved to postpone till the May meeting. Weddell seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The item is tabled for the May meeting.

**Adoption Of Jasper County Immigration Services Resolution** - Several Illinois counties have discussed the immigration issues with some counties adopting resolutions that symbolically state the County will not spend or accept any tax money to support or house immigrants who are here illegally. The county considered a resolution. Bollman moved to adopt the Jasper County Immigration Services Resolution. Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Resolution has been adopted.

**Adoption Of Ordinance Amending Jasper County Ordinance No. 2015-12-10 To Add Territory, Delete Territory, And to Expand and Add Incentives to The Olney/Richland/Newton/Jasper Enterprise Zone** - Over the past year representatives from Olney, Richland County, Newton, Ste. Marie, and Jasper County have been in discussion regarding changes to the existing enterprise zone. The enterprise zone was allowed to expand, and that additional expansion was divided between Richland and Jasper County with the expansion occurring in the municipalities of Olney, Newton, and Ste. Marie. The Ordinance and Amendment attached to the board packet outlines the new enterprise zone map. In addition, to map changes the incentives for the enterprise zone are clearly defined and listed in respective categories in the ordinance: State Enterprise Zone Incentives; Sales Tax; Property Tax Abatement; Building Permit Fee; and Waiver of Water and Sewer Connection Fees all these incentives are listed and defined in the ordinance. In accordance with the statutory requirements, a public hearing was held on Thursday, March 14, at 11:00 A.M. at Olney City Hall. At the meeting, all in attendance favored moving forward with the amendment. To complete the process an application must be submitted to Illinois DCEO, which includes an amendment ordinance and Intergovernmental Agreement reflecting the proposed boundary change and modified incentives. Additionally, the application requires the signature of the chief executive officer from each entity. Both the Amending Ordinance and Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement are attached in the board packet for consideration and approval. Bollman moved to adopt an Ordinance Amending the Jasper County Ordinance No. 2015-12-10 to add territory, delete territory, and to expand and add incentives to the Olney/Richland/Newton/Jasper Enterprise Zone. Weddell seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Ordinance has been adopted.

**Adoption Of Amendment to The Olney / Richland / Newton / Jasper Enterprise Zone Intergovernmental Agreement** - Following the passage of the Ordinance before the board for consideration is the adoption of an amendment to the Olney/Richland/Newton/Jasper Enterprise Zone intergovernmental agreement to reflect the changes from the ordinance the board just adopted. Weddell moved for the adoption

of the amendment to the Olney/Richland/Newton/Jasper Enterprise Zone Intergovernmental Agreement. Bollman seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Amendment to the Agreement has been adopted.

**Information Technology Services Management Agreement** - Item was taken up following the Executive/Closed Session

**Board Comments:** None

**Chairman's Comments:** Warfel attended UCCI conference represent 82 of 104 counties with networking opportunities.

The board had an executive session with action taken following the executive session, 6:39 pm. Geier moved for the board to enter an executive session under the following exception: personnel (exception 1). Bollman seconded the motion. Bollman, Deckard, Geier, Heltsley, Judson, Pickens, Spiker, Warfel, and Weddell voted yes. Motion carried on a roll call vote. The Board entered an Executive Session. Resumed Open Session at 7:21 pm.

**Information Technology Services Management Agreement**

On May 1, 2022, the County of Jasper entered into an agreement with Kemper's Technology Consulting to provide the County with Information Technology Services. Yearly that contract renews on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The board annually reviews this contract and makes sure the service needs for the County are being met. Geier moved to renew the contract with Kemper's Technology Consulting to provide the County with Information Technology Services. Weddell seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Geier moved to adjourn the meeting. Deckard seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

The next board meeting will be on May 16, 2024, at 6 PM.

Amy Tarr, Jasper County Clerk