

# MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD MEETING

## JUNE 10, 2021

The Marshall County Board met through zoom for the June Board meeting on June 10, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Kroeschen called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call shows: Chairman Kroeschen, Vice-Chairman McGlasson, McLaughlin, Donna, Johnson, Balensiefen, Minnick, Stash, Gauwitz, Lueders, Bakewell and Lindstrom present.

**#21-56** It was moved by Balensiefen and seconded by McLaughlin to **approve** and **amend sentence** (The Supreme Court said not giving the Judges a COLA is illegal.) **in the May County Board minutes**. Roll Call vote shows: 12 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

### Old Business:

Vice Chairman McGlasson gave an overview of the contracts. He stated that the Circuit Clerk and Highway Departments have never had longevity and that it is something new that is added in these contracts. In the Sheriff Department contracts previously longevity was 2% and effective December 1, 2020, it will be 3% for every 5 years of service. The Circuit Clerk & Highway Department language will be different because of having a few employees with over 10 years they have never received longevity they will automatically receive a onetime 3% longevity pay increase effective December 1, 2020. So, anyone in the Circuit Clerk or Highway Department that reaches a 5-year mark going forward will receive a 3% longevity pay increase.

Circuit Clerk Gina Noe stated that she was told on Monday from the Administrative Office that the Union Rep. agreed that if the union member did not like the language, they could file a grievance and that could end up costing the County even more. She stated she has another call this afternoon with the Administrator to go over the language as the County cannot pay out 3 different ways, longevity should only be paid out one way. The "Me to Clause" is supposed to be the best language for the employee. No decisions have been made on her contract. Pat Sloan also stated that he has the same question about how the language is wrote. He stated he has one employee this will affect, and it is about \$2,000.

**#21-57** It was moved by Stash and seconded by McLaughlin to **approve** Union Contract for the Circuit Clerk's Office  
Roll call vote shows: 12 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**#21-58** It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Lueders to **approve** Union Contract for the Highway Department.  
Roll call vote shows: 12 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**#21-59** It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Stash to **approve** Union Contract for Unit A & Policemen's Benevolent Labor Committee-Sheriff Department.  
Roll call vote shows: 12 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

**#21-60** It was moved by Stash and seconded by Donna to **approve** Union Contract for Unit B Sheriff Department. Roll call vote shows: 12 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

Vice-Chairman McGlasson stated that the Circuit Clerk, Unit A & B contracts will not be in affect until the Department Head sign them.

Pat Sloan brought up about the back pay for the nonunion employees as well. Bakewell brought up that the nonunion employees have always been approved at a County Board meeting. Lindstrom stated that he will schedule a HR committee meeting before the next meeting so that it can be put on the agenda.

9:00 A.M. Gauwitz left the meeting.

New Business:

County Clerk & Recorder Jill Kenyon introduced Danielle Westerfield and Greg Bachman from Fidlar Technologies who are a recording vendor. Included with each packet that was sent to each member was a quote, letter, pictures and supporting documentation on the American Rescue Plan Act grant. Kenyon stated that she applied for the grant for the County on May 14<sup>th</sup>. It was a very lengthy process and she had to give a lot of her personal information for the grant to be processed. The County received a direct deposit of \$1,110,848.50 on May 20<sup>th</sup>. I will then have to re-apply at the end of the year for the other portion. The total amount of the grant is \$2,221,697.00 This grant will cover an upgraded/on-line recording system and digitizing the record books. I feel that this grant money will be well spent by upgrading the system and digitizing the records. We currently do not have anything scanned if we were to have a fire, water leak or any kind of damage to the building. Title searchers are not able to search on-line. We receive several calls asking if they can search online. My current contract with my vendor called Avenu will end next June 2022. I feel that this would be money well spent and it is something that would not have to be budgeted and would generate revenue. Discussion was held and it was decided to be tabled until July 8<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting until more information was given about the grant.

9:26 A.M. Vice Chairman McGlasson left.

**#21-61** It was moved by Bakewell and seconded by McLaughlin to **table** the approval of the Contract with Fidlar on the new recording system and digitizing the books.  
Roll call vote shows: 7 yes, 3 no and 2 absent.

Kurt Kuchle and Hector Gomez from the Health Department were present on zoom. Hector stated that the people needing a vaccination has dropped. They are still offering them by appointment at the Health Department. They are not doing any of the clinics currently, 8,945 doses have been given. 38.11% have been fully vaccinated. If you are fully vaccinated, you do not have to wear a mask as it goes into the bridge phase.

Kurt gave a building update. The old trees at the Health Department in Lacon have been removed. The new entrance driveway on the east side of the building is complete. The asphalt in the back parking lot is complete. Painting the building is also going to be completed. He stated that we currently have 5-Marshall, 8-Bureau that have COVID. Even if you have been fully vaccinated you can still get it. Kurt stated that this would be his last meeting as he is retiring!

County Engineer gave any update on Zoning. He stated that the next ZBA zoom meeting will be Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Four special use permits on four solar projects that need to be renewed and one variance. A list of the building permits was given to each member.

Sloan reported on Highway. They have been busy with construction and the wind farm on the east side is almost completed. They still have a lot of signs up in Bennington Township for the construction. The construction company will be paying the County and Township around a million dollars for surface repair. He stated next year they will be repaving Toluca Rd. They received the new Western Star snowplow truck. The old truck will be sold for at least \$25,000.

Sloan reported everything going well on recycling. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the M-P Fair Grounds. The TV collection event has not been scheduled at this time. Minnick thanked Sloan for the gravel that he was able to get for the dog pound.

**#21-62** It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Balensiefen to **approve** the re-appointment of Brenton Waystout to the Marshall County Board of Health for a 3-year term. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 2 absent.

Donna Augustyn-Sloan stated her opinion on the Second Amendment Sanctuary. A letter was emailed to each County Board member on why she feels it should be opposed. She stated that they understand that this is a non-binding resolution. She stated that there is a lot of daily shootings and gun violence. She stated that they are not gun owners, but they do have friend and family members that are. They do not want to take away any safety, recreation, hunting or personal protection. She is asking that the Marshall County Board oppose this resolution and go no further.

Chairman Kroeschen noted that he had asked Colleen and the group that is pushing this resolution to take a petition out and get signatures to put it on the ballot. He stated that the County Board should not have to make the decision and the County Clerk should not have to send out the letters to all Elected Officials as it states it in the resolution, it is not her job.

Colleen Soon was present on zoom about Marshall County becoming a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. Information was sent to each board member. She stated that the resolution that was sent was only a template from the ISRA. She is involved with an organization group called Marshall County for the Second Amendment. The first sanctuary County in the State of Illinois and United States of America was Effingham County, April of 2018. In the past three years over 60.78% are Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties in Illinois. Most of these were put on the ballot as referendums and or by resolutions that were passed. Four of the Six Counties around Marshall County are Sanctuary Counties.

**#21-63** It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Lueders to **approve** Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution. Roll call vote shows: 6 yes, 4 no and 2 absent.

10:05 A.M. Balensiefen and Donna left.

10:05 A.M.-10:15 A.M. Break was held.

Chairman Kroeschen stated that he was approached from the Elected Officials about receiving a COLA. Since salaries are already set, they are not able to increase them but what they could receive is called a COLA. In some Counties this has been done. Circuit Clerk Gina Noe stated that when her salary was set at 1%, 1%, 0% & 0% she was not happy and was told by Finance Chairman Bakewell it was because of the pandemic. She stated that every time the contracts are up for renewal the employees are given far way more than the Department Heads. It never used to be this way everyone was treated fairly. When a union employee received a raise a non-union employee and department heads received the same and for the length of time. Noe expressed her feeling that the union employee will get a 3% percent increase plus a 3% longevity for there 5 years of service and the department head who carries the weight of the office will only receive 1% and some years 0%. Pretty soon an employee will be making more than the department head. Lindstrom stated that Elected Officials only have to be here 1 day a year and Noe stated **not one** department head does this as we do not have enough staff. She stated just because my vehicle is not here does not mean I am not working. I work late nights dialed in and weekends. McLaughlin reported he understands how hard they work because if they did only work one day a year the offices would be a train wreck. It was stated that the State's Attorney and Probation salaries are reimbursed from the State.

**#21-64** It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Stash to **approve** the County Board, Circuit Clerk, County & Recorder, Treasurer, Assessor and Sheriff a **1.3% COLA** increase starting 12/1/2020 for one year.  
Roll call vote shows: 6 yes, 2 no and 4 absent.

**#21-65** It was moved by Lindstrom and seconded by Lueders to **approve** the County Clerk & Recorder 6-month report. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

#21-66 It was moved by Johnson and seconded by McLaughlin to **approve** the Resolution Authorizing FY 2021 Care Act Funding. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

#21-67 It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Stash to **approve** the re-appointment of Kent McKee to the Marshall County Airport Board for a 3-year term.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

#21-68 It was moved by Lueders and seconded by McLaughlin to **approve** the re-appointment of Pat Sloan to the Marshall County Airport Board for a 3-year term.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

#21-69 It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Lueders to **approve** the re-appointment of Dr. Patrick Hamper to the Marshall County Health Department for a 3-year term.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

#21-70 It was moved by Lindstrom and seconded by McLaughlin to **approve** the re-appointment of Dr. Michael D. Girone to the Marshall Health Department for a 3-year term.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

#21-71 It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Stash to **approve** the re-appointment of Brad Lindstrom (County Board Liaison) to the Marshall County Health Department for a 3-year term. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays and 4 absent.

It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Stash to approve the Payment of the Bills.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Animal Control:** Minnick reported the Highway Department got them some more gravel.

**Building & Grounds:** Johnson reported they replace some new tiles in the Courtroom and the Highway Department would be getting 2 new entrance doors.

**COVID 19:** Nothing to report.

**EMA:** McLaughlin reported that the State accepted the Emergency Plan. Next meeting will be June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Finance/Budget:** Nothing to report.

**County Highway & Recycling:** Lindstrom reported they are looking for a part-time person as needed to help when they are spray patching. This will be an on-call position as needed.

**Human Resources & IT:** Nothing to report.

**Judicial Offices:** Nothing to report.

**Lower-Level Offices:** Lindstrom is going to schedule a meeting to discuss the non-union employee pay increase or longevity.

**Public Transportation:** Nothing to report.

**County Sheriff & Coroner:** Nothing to report.

**Airport:** Nothing to report.

**Comm. Mental Health:** Nothing to report.

**Economic Development & Enterprise Zone:** Chairman Kroeschen stated he had a meeting with the engineering firm and State of Illinois on the new construction of the Henry Bridge. He appointed Andy Stash to help with the project.

**ETSB (911):** McLaughlin reported the shed work and radio work is completed.

**Health Dept.:** Nothing to report.

**Human Services Transportation Comm.:** Nothing to report.

**Marshall-Putnam Extension:** Nothing to report.

**Regional Office of Education:** Nothing to report.

**Tri-County Opportunities:** Nothing to report.

**Upper IL River Valley Development Authority:** Nothing to report.

**Zoning & Land Use:** Stash reported they will have a meeting next week on zoom.

**Public Comments:**

Gary mentioned the next County Board meeting will be at 10:00 A.M. in the Courtroom and zoom is in question as you cannot hear everyone.

Lueders reported June 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. the Republican Committee will be holding a picnic at Child's Park in Henry.

At 10:59 A.M. it was moved by Minnick and seconded by Johnson to **adjourn** the meeting.

**7/8/21** It was moved by Stash and seconded by Gauwitz to approve the **minutes 6/10/21 as presented**. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carried.