**Alexander County Board of Commissioners Minutes**

**2000 Washington Avenue**

**Cairo, IL 62914**

Chairman: Joe Griggs Vice Chairman: Bruce Sims

Commissioner: L. “Steve” Essex

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**January 30th, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Griggs @ 2:00 p.m.

**Roll Call of Board Members:**

* Joe E. Griggs: Present
* Bruce Sims: Present
* L. Steve Essex: Present

Mr. Essex made motion and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the January 16th, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Griggs read the letter that was sent from Chalen Tatum about the list of appointments for the Central Alexander County Public Water Department. The letter described that all appointees’ terms had expired; Chalen Tatum, Debra Jeffers, Josh Mckee, Curtis Hardamon, and Les Bigham. Debra Jeffers asked how the County Board came up with that list of names. The Board explained this was a letter that was sent from Chalen Tatum.

Mr. Griggs appointed each person as follows:

* Chalen Tatum – 5 yr. term
* Debra Jeffers – 4 yr. term
* Josh Mckee - 3 yr. term
* Curtis Hardamon – 2 yr. term
* Les Bigham – 1 yr. term

Southern Bank had a security deposit and rate proposal. Southern Bank explained that we use Pledge Security’s right now, and want to offer Intrafi. Southern bank stated the process of securities is the same, where funds are still insured up to $250,000 and the securities will be held by third-party safekeeping’s. What will change is that the County will go from a 3.00% fixed earnings rate, to a variable earnings rate.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to stick with the 3.00% fixed earnings rate. Motion passed by vote.

James Mayer with Mayer Networks presented the board with two proposals to switch to Mayer Networks as our IT provider for all offices except for the Sheriff’s Department, and Judicial offices. Mr. Mayer went over SLA proposal, which lines out the IT service his company would provide such as, managing server, backups, dual factor authentication, etc. The SLA proposal is $2,224/mo., for three years.

The second proposal Mr. Mayer presented was the monthly for Microsoft 365, and emails. This proposal was $238/mo., for three years.

Mr. Mayer explained that both proposals do go together.

Mr. Price stated that he has to have cybersecurity training, and risk assessment with the Cyber Navigators from the State Board of Elections, and they have commented how much we lack in IT, and cyber security. Mr. Price explained that the week prior to the meeting he had his yearly risk assessment with State Board, and they said these new contracts meet the standards of our current vendor (Creative Date), but it also exceeds what we have. Mr. Price also explained that to meet current state standards, and insurance standards to obtain cyber security insurance that Mayer Networks would help us get there. Lastly, Mr. Price stated that the previous fiscal year we spent $30,000 for Creative Date, and the new proposals come out less that $30,000 for three years, and offer more benefits.

The Board asked Mr. Price if all the other offices had seen these proposals. Mr. Price said yes, and they he had emailed everyone including the board the proposals the previous week. Mr. Price also stated that the coroner, and Assessor are in with switching.

The Board stated they want a little more time to review the proposals, and to table them until the February 13th, 2024 meeting.

Treasurer Watkins presented the Board with a Budgetary Status Report, which she states she is doing this because its her time to report quarterly.

Treasurer Watkins wanted to talk about ARPA, and how its not only to help the courthouse, but to also help the community, because the funds can be donated. Mrs. Watkins stated that she has talked to Tiffany George at Southern Five, and Ms. George states that this can be done, and she would help in the process of making the donation. Mrs. Watkins, and other Board Members of Rise Community Market discussed how they are the only grocery store in Alexander County, and struggling to stay afloat, and they could really benefit from the donation.

Mr. Griggs stated that he talked to Ms. George also, and has more questions for her and has asked her to come to the next meeting to discuss this.

The Board said they are open to helping the Rise Community Market, and other businesses in the county, they just want to talk to Ms. George first.

**Claims:**

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay claims between January 2nd, 2024 – January 16th, 2024. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay EMA claims. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay Ambulance Department claims. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay Highway Department claims. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay Alexander County Payroll. Motion passed by vote.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk