**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**

**October 10th, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Griggs @ 10:00 a.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 September 26th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Kent Purchase wanted to purchase a county owned property in Future City, 12-14-380-006, with a market price of $1070. Mr. Purchase called saying he could not attend today and asked to be table until the October 24th meeting.

**New Business**

There was a discussion about the 2023-2024 ICRMT general liability renewal, and how it raised $21,096.

After looking over the 2023-2024 ICRMT general liability renewal, and the 2024 ICRMT unemployment insurance proposal, the board decided to table these until the October 24th meeting, and asked Mr. Price if he will see if someone from Snedeker Risk Management could come in and discuss the renewals with them. Mr. Price said he will get in touch with someone at SRM.

The board discussed the 2024 Alexander County Board Meeting schedule. After talking with Mr. Price, the board meetings have to stay on either Monday or Tuesday for Mr. Price’s office to get payroll done. The board agreed to keep it on Tuesday, and to make it for the afternoon at either 2pm or 3pm.

Mr. Bullard and Mr. Price both presented a letter to the board they received from IDOT about the FY2025 State Matching Assistance Funds. Mr. Bullard explained that the County’s Federal-Aid Matching tax rate for 2021 was below the minimum of 0.045 percent, which is the minimum for eligibility to receive State Matching Assistance Funds.

Mr. Price stated that for 2021 the tax rate for the County’s Federal-Aid Matching was 0.043. Mr. Price said that he emailed Kelly Lareau at IDOT to have her explain exactly what the county needed to do receive the State Matching Assistance Funds. In the email Mr. Price handed out the board members Ms. Lareau stated, “Counties don’t have to participate in the State Match Assistance program, but it generally benefits them if they do.  The paperwork gives 2 options.  The first is just the actual calculation as is.  A county would note this in the event that the information that we received was incorrect or if the county chose not to make a transfer to participate in the program.  The 2nd calculation demonstrates the transfer amount that the county is making to qualify for the program.  The transfer if utilized is completed at this time and must come from a non road and bridge account.  It must also be a permanent transfer. To meet the minimum threshold and receive the prorated amount, the county must transfer at least $998.  To meet the maximum amount and received full share status, the county will need to transfer $3,608.31.  Any amount of transfer between the minimum and the maximum will result in a prorated amount of assistance based on the amount transferred.”

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval of the County Federal-Aid Matching Tax Fund Resolution, to transfer $3.608.31 from General Fund to Federal-Aid Matching. Motion passed by vote.

Judge Farris wanted to discuss the public defenders, and a joint resolution about public defenders with Pulaski County. Judge Farris explained that right now Alexander County has two part-time public defenders with the budget of $60,000, and Pulaski is about the same way and neither county can afford that. Judge Farris explained that with the joint resolution would give both counties one full-time public defender, and Alexander County’s share would be $34,640.94, which is less for two part-time public defenders.

Judge Farris then explained that as a result of the Safety Act the county is now granted $113, 229.93 for the public defender salary. Judge Farris stated to the board to help them out for at least one year, maybe 2-4 years, he will pay the public defender salary from those funds to help the county’s General Fund.

**Old Business**

Mr. Price informed the board that he has been working on scheduling a cybersecurity training. Mr. Price informed the board that cybersecurity training for all government employees became a law.

There was a discussion if the Ambulance account had enough to pay bills this week. Mrs. Bigham explained that they did but the Ambulance fund will need a transfer soon. Mrs. Watkins stated there are two options: 1. Take from ARPA. 2. Do a transfer from Early Distribution.

The board decided the Early Distribution would be best. Mrs. Watkins went and made the voucher to be approved.

**Claims:**

The board asked Mrs. Watkins how payroll was going to be paid since General Fund did not have the funds to make it right now. Mrs. Watkins explained that state revenue usually comes in on the 12th, and we are getting a replacement fund in the amount of $91,000 send to us, so payroll will be fine.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay claims between September 26th – October 10th, 2023. 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. Griggs second the approval to pay Alexander County Payroll. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk