**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 24th, 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. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of the October 10th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Timothy Lickfett wanted to purchase county owned property in Hodges Park.

09-01-477-003: market price - $700

09-01-433-004: market price - $735

09-01-400-017: market price - $5,000

09-01-400-019: market price - $4,375

Grand total - $10,810

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to sell county owned properties 09-01-477-003, 09-01-433-004, 09-01-400-017, 09-01-400-019 for $10,801 to Timothy Lickfett. Motion passed by vote.

Mayor of Thebes Mary Gilomen wanted to discuss with the board about giving 1 mile of Fayville Road, from the bridge headed out of Thebes, to the county. Mayor Gilomen explained that the road is in rough condition, barely drivable, and people just use it to dump trash off. The board asked Highway Engineer Nathan Bullard for his opinion. Mr. Bullard stated that he has been in discussion about the road with Mayor Gilomen, and has gone out and looked that the stretch of road. Mr. Bullard explained that hes not really interested in having the county take it. Mr. Bullard also explained that the time, effort, and money it would take to repair most stretch of road would take a lot, and it would take the highway department away from more important issues. Mr. Bullard suggested that it may just need to be closed down. Mr. Bullard did state that he could send his guys out to help keep the brush back.

The board informed Mayor Gilomen that this topic would be tabled until the November 7th meeting, so they could gather more information by then.

Brent Williams and Kevin Kern with Snedeker Risk Management was there to answer any questions the board might have about the 2024 Unemployment insurance proposal, and the 2023-2024 General Liability insurance renewal. Kevin Kern explained that the rate for Unemployment was under the average of 2% at 1.930%. Brent Williams explained that the General Liability went up because to keep up with industry standards they had to raise the excess coverage amount from 5 million to 10 million. The reason for that is because that’s the industry standard, and it a way to cover if a law suit ever happens. Kevin, and Brent both stated they most lawsuits don’t usually settle under 5 million anymore, and to make sure there is enough coverage to cover that.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval of the 2024 Unemployment insurance proposal of 1.930%. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of the 2023-2024 General Liability insurance renewal for $179,032. Motion passed by vote.

County Clerk Price presented the 2024 Alexander County Board of Commissioners meeting schedule to the board. Mr. Price pointed out that the time of the meeting is at 2pm, and that October will have 3 meetings, because of the General Election in November. There was a discussion about if 2pm was okay, or if they want to keep it at 10am. After a short discussion the board decided to keep it at 2pm, and approve the schedule.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second to approve the 2024 Alexander County Board of Commissioners meeting schedule. Motion passed by vote.

Kent Purchase came before the board to discuss purchasing count owned property in Future City.

12-14-380-003: market price - $1,070

Mr. Purchase stated that other properties he bought around him years ago were about $200-250, and is wondering why this one is high. The board explained that the Assessor looks at the value of the properties around one that is up for sale, and figures out what the market price is now. The board stated to Mr. Purchase that they go with the figure the Assessor gives them, and that how they usually sell properties. Mr. Purchase said he would talk to the Assessor about the price, and tabled the discussion of purchasing the property until the November 7th meeting.

**New Business:**

Treasurer Watkins came in to discuss the new Public Defender Fund proposal, and how it will all work. Mrs. Watkins didn’t know how the funds were supposed to go, or if she needed to open a new account for that. Mrs. Watkins stated she believes she will have to open a new account for it, to keep better track of it. The board agreed with Mrs. Watkins that she will need to open a new account for it. The only thins Mrs. Watkins stated she didn’t know for sure is who can be on the signature cards for that account, since it involves the Chief Judge. The board stated that if they can get on the signature cards they would like Chairman Griggs, and Vice-Chairman Sims on the account.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Price brought up the paving of the courthouse parking lot. Mr. Price reminded the board that the grant that he was award to pave the parking lot was a reimbursement grant. Mr. price explained that the project has to be paid for, so that he can turn in all the correct documentation to the State Board of Elections by June 30th, 2024 deadline, so that the county can get reimbursed in July or August of 2024. Mr. Price stated that to pay the amount of $27,376 quickly that it should come from ARPA, and since there will be a reimbursement check for that amount that it can go directly back into ARPA. Mr. Price even offered to have a contract drawn up that states he will borrow $27,376 to pay for the paving, and when the check comes in he will have it deposited back into ARPA. The board liked that idea and asked Mr. Price to draw up the contract.

The board wanted discuss how to help the Ambulance Department finically. The board has stated that the Ambulance Department can not go into General Fund, based on a previous lawsuit, where Ambulance Department was put in General Fund and had to be removed, and pay a fine. The board agreed that they need more time to gather information, and to discuss this later.

**Claims:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to pay claims between October 10th – October 24th, 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. Sims second the approval to pay Alexander County Payroll. Motion passed by vote.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk