**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**

**December 19th, 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. Griggs second the approval of the December 5th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of Liquor License’s to Hunny’s, Alexander/Pulaski Sportsman’s Club, Fill-Up-Mart, and Horseshoe Bar & Grill. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of Trustee Resolutions 11-23-00 & 11-23-002. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of a MEMO from the County Board asking all elected officials and office holders to be represented at all future board meetings. Motion passed by vote.

Assessor Matlock wanted to discuss having the county reassessed. Ms. Matlock stated that it has been over 10 years since the last reassessment, and it time to have it re-done to have a more accurate tax cycle. Ms. Matlock stated that properties are selling for 10% higher than what they are being assessed at, and said that this would help bring in more revenue for the county if the assessment was more accurate. Ms. Matlock said that this reassessment needs to be contracted out, and asks the Board to consider using ARPA funds to pay for this.

Ms. Matlock then wanted to discuss the voucher for her home internet bill, that the Board denied last meeting. Ms. Matlock was stating the board has no right to stop her from doing her job, and they should pay for her home internet bill. Ms. Matlock provided an Attorney General case to the Board and the State’s Attorney, that she claims should be enough proof for them to pay her home internet bill.

During this discussion Judge Farris, and Ms. Matlock disagreed about the Board paying for her home internet bill. Judge Farris stating that Ms. Matlock doesn’t come to work, and the Board should not pay for her home internet bill, because they have not told her to solely work from home. Ms. Matlock asked why the Judge was getting in her offices business, and the Judge replied that he was a tax paying citizen of this county.

The Board stopped the argument between Judge Farris, and Assessor Matlock and informed Ms. Matlock they will review what she provided and get back to her.

The Board asked the Judge to clarify the Public Defenders payroll voucher, and the amended resolution.

The Judge explained to them that the reason there is an amended resolution I because of a small clerical error of $8 in the amount listed in the first resolution.

The Judge then explained that the Public Defender is not taking our insurance, but we still have to give him that amount in insurance for him to go out and buy insurance somewhere else.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval the Public Defender Resolution 11-20-2023 – Amended. Motion passed by vote.

EMS Director Susan Bigham wanted to speak to the Board on behalf of her employees. Mrs. Bigham stated that in 2024 minimum wage goes up to $14, which will put most of her workers at minimum wage because that is what they make now. Mrs. Bigham asked if they will be getting a raise next year. The board said they would table this util the next board meeting.

**Claims:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to pay claims between December 5th – December 19th, 2023, except for the Assessors reimbursement for her home internet bill. Motion passed by vote.

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

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

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

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex 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 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk