**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**

**March 26th, 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 March 12th, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval of Trustee Resolutions 03-24-001 thru 03-24-020 for $13,689. Motion passed by vote.

Emily Boyd, and Natalie Sawyer with Southern 7 cam before the board to get a quarterly report. They stated that Southern 7 is working on sex education coursed at Cairo and Egyptian high school. The City of Cairo is getting updates at their parks, and they are trying to find P.E. equipment for schools, and they are still looking to hire a floating RN for the various schools they serve.

Mr. Griggs asked Southern 7 about making a donation using the county’s opioid fund that we receive from the state. Southern 7 stated that they didn’t know if they could, but we aren’t the first county to ask this question. Southern 7 stated they would look into it and get back them.

Heather Rose with Southern 5 gave an update on the ambulance base renovation grant project. Ms. Rose informed the board she need an approval to write a check to the Highway Department for items that were purchased on their credit card for the renovation of $9,709.66, and one to reimburse Susan Bigham for items she purchased also of $131.99.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. sims second the approval of both reimbursements for $9,841.65. Motion passed by vote.

Ms. Rose stated that Wissinger only has a few items to finish on the project then it can be closed out. Mr. Wissinger has been bad about coming in to finish up the work. Hopefully he will be finished by the next board meeting.

Ms. Rose wanted to give a final update on the FDA Rural Development Grant. This grant is the one that is helping renovating the Ambulance base, then the Highway Department was supposed to get a new dump truck with it, and then new windows for the courthouse. Ms. Rose stated that that grant has been cut and changed a lot now. The only things they are allowing grant funds for is emergency service equipment, such as ambulances, sirens, sheriff vehicles.

The board decided to use the next Rural Development grant funds on new Sheriff vehicles.

Charles Gatewood from Klondike wanted to discuss with the board why they made the recent appointments, and reappointments of the Central Alexander County Public Water Department. Mr. Gatewood wanted to know why the board choose Chalen Tatum’s letter over the one the Tonia Sissom the secretary. Mr. Price explained that he talked to Tonia and she was going to email a letter to him to give to the board. Mr. Price stated Chalen Tatum called him not long after that stating the same thing Tonia was saying, and that he would hand deliver the letter to Mr. Price. Chalen Tatum dropped off the letter and Mr. Price put it into the board mail box. Mr. Price stated that he went back to review his emails and never received an email from Tonia, and that it was all during the election season and didn’t realize he never received an email. So, the only letter the board received was the one from Chalen Tatum, who is a board member, and that is how they got the individual to appoint and reappoint.

Treasurer Watkins wanted to discuss the new Intra-Fi and the various issues her office is having using it, and would like the board to go back to the old system with the bank. Mrs. Watkins stated that the system was something she was willing t try with reservations, but its not working as it was pitched to them from the bank. The main issue is that our money goes out to other banks at the end of the day, but it doesn’t not come back in the morning like the bank said it would. Instead, it shows a remaining balance. The other issue is that they can’t tell what interest is in real time, because they have to wait for the bank statements at the end of the month to see.

Mrs. Watkins stated its very hard to see what funds we have available when the bank accounts all show zero, and its hard to get anything done because of it. Mrs. Watkins asked the board since we did not sign a contract, if we could switch back to the old system.

Mr. Griggs asked to have the bank come in and explain the issue from their side.

**Claims:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to pay claims between March 12th, 2024 – March 26th, 2024. 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 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk