**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**

**May 7th, 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. Sims second the approval of the April 23rd, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Jody Johnson, County Director of University of Illinois Extension Center, wanted to give an update on what the extension center is doing for the county, and the annual funding proposal. Mr. Johnson discussed how the Rise Community Market is struggling, and they are using all their resources and grants that they can to help support the store.

Mr. Johnson, explained that by the board agreeing and signing the agreement between the County and U of I, that is shows the main campus in Champaign that Alexander County wants grant funds to help programs, and the businesses like Rise Community Market. Mr. Johnson explained that the agreement is for the same amount as last year, $26,200.00.

Mr. Johnson stated he hadn’t received last years funds yet, and County Clerk Price said that he believes there was an agreement letter the Treasurer sent to receive funds, and U of I marked out some words and tweaked that agreement. Mr. Price said that he believes the Treasurer showed the issue to the State’s Attorney, and the Treasurer was informed that she doesn’t have to send funds since U of I altered the agreement.

The Board advised Mr. Johnson to get with the Treasurer and see about the issue, before they sign this new agreement, on why U of I hadn’t received any funds yet. Mr. Johnson agreed with the board.

The U of I annual proposal agreement was tabled until Mr. Johnson found out about the issue. Mr. Johnson said he would keep in contact with everyone to get back on the agenda when he figures out the issue.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of Resolution 05072024: County Board Position Raise for 12/1/2024 – 11/30/30 $10,800 annually. Motion passed by vote.

**Claims:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to pay claims between April 23rd, 2024 – May 7th, 2023 – except for Assessor Matlock’s cell phone bill, until they discuss it her. 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.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to leave Regular Session and go into Executive Session. Motion passed by vote.

Left Regular Session at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to go back into Regular Session from Executive Session. Motion passed by vote.

Rejoined Regular Session at 3:00 p.m.

**Old Business:**

State’s Attorney Zach Gowin wanted to give the board an update on the SmartWatt issue. Mr. Gowin explained that SmartWatt works like a car loan. Where you can purchase a vehicle from Guetterman’s, and they will finance the loan through Ford Finance. SamrtWatt did the same thing where they promised all these improvements, and once the finance company had the loan they dropped us, and now the finance company is coming after us. Mr. Gowin stated that he will be in talks with attorney Steve Stone, to see if Mr. Stone can handle this case for us, since Mr. Gowin himself is so busy being the only State’s Attorney. The Board understood and thanks Mr. Gowin for looking into this for them.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Chairman: Joe E. Griggs

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Vice-Chairman Bruce Sims

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Commissioner Steve Essex

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: County Clerk Zachary C. Price