**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 9th, 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: Absent
* L. Steve Essex: Present

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the April 25th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the May 1st, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of Trustee Resolutions 04-23-001, and 04-23-002. Motion passed by vote.

Krishna Balakrishnan with Do Mor Development LLC., wanted to meet with the board to introduce himself and give the board information about his company and their plans. Mr. Balakrishnan informed the board that he was one of three companies that was award a license from the state of Illinois for Cannabis Adult Use Dispensary and Lounge. Mr. Balakrishnan informed the board that he is looking at the Tamms area, and Olive Branch area to setup his facility which he hopes to sell and have a lounge consumption on site as well. The board thanked Mr. Balakrishnan for coming to the meeting, and asked that he keep the board up to date on what he and his company do.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement with BFW Engineers for the Phase III Engineering for the Olive Branch Rd/Grapevine Trail Resurfacing Project. Motion passed by vote.

Jody Johnson the University of Illinois Extension County Director wanted to discuss with the board the annual budget coming up for the following year. He presented his budget of $26,200.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the U of I annual budget for the 2023-2024 budget of $26,200. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Price reminded the board that they have to submit that document to Mrs. Watkins since she makes the budget for the county.

Circuit Clerk Carey Simmons wanted to discuss with the board about getting a raise. Mrs. Simmons tried to explain the findings that she had based on population, and income of revenue of other counties. Mrs. Simmons stated that she was the lowest paid Circuit Clerk ($39,500), in the state even behind other counties with much less population, and much less revenue, and that Alexander County has the 3rd highest revenue income compared to the other counties with far less population.

The board asked that she put all that she explained in writing and they will get back to her.

**New Business:**

Mr. Price wanted to mention to the board that they might want to pass an ordinance to not allow on-site consumption for dispensaries, especially since the state awarded Mr. Balakrishnan’s company a license for on-site consumption. The board stated that Mr. Balakrishnan could not do anything without their permission. Mr. Price tried to explain that the ordinance would be something completely separate from what Mr. Balakrishnan would present to them later on. The board stated they would wait to hear back from Mr. Balakrishnan.

The Alexander-Cairo Port District Board sent a letter to the board stating that the Port Board is about to begin the next phase on the Cairo Port project. The letter states that the board is requesting donations from the County of Alexander, the City of Cairo, and Cairo Public Utility for one-third of the insurance premium. The premium is $2,396 and the Port Board is asking each entity donate $798.33. The board said they wanted to donate. Mr. Price said he will get with Mr. Gowin to figure out how the process works.

**Public Comment:**

Valarie Ross and other citizens from Unity came before the board to discuss a few issues with the board. Ms. Ross explained that the intersection of Route 3 and Unity Road is a dangerous turn. Ms. Ross explained that there used to be a street pole there when a private citizen used to live there and had it installed and paid for it out of their pocket. Ms. Ross and the other community members would like for the county to install the light there again. The board explained that they can not do that for financial reason, and that the community members should call Ameren and explain their case to get street pole installed there if they like.

The Unity residents also were upset about the 9-1-1 dispatching, and the wait time for response of the Ambulance department, and the Sheriff’s department. The board explained to them, that the state took control of the 9-1-1 board and placed them in Union Co., and also that both the Sheriffs department and Ambulance department are a small group of individuals and its takes time to service everyone. The board explained that the 9-1-1 dispatching in Union Co. has no affect of the time of response, and that is because the departments are a small group of people trying to serve the whole county.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to pay claims between April 26th, 2023 – May 9th, 2023. Motion passed by vote.

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

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

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs 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. Griggs second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk