**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**

**June 6th, 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. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval of the May 23rd, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Lisa Casper, Scott Spurlock, and Gayla Jones from Pulaski County proposed the new Intergovernmental Agreement for The Operation of Pulaski County Detention Center Located in Pulaski County, Illinois. Mr. Spurlock stated that both counties were operating on the old contract that was last discussed in 2014. Mr. Spurlock said that he understands times are tough for everyone right now, and instead of raising the prisoner per diem 3%, he only raised it to 2%, at $75/day with transportation. Mr. Spurlock wanted to point out the only other change was the 20% late fee charged on the next bill if Alexander County is late in paying the previous months bill.

Everyone agreed to table the signing of the new proposed contract until the June 20th, 2023 board meeting.

Brittany Taylor with Southern Five wanted to discuss the new contract for Southern Five to administer the IRP loan fund. Mrs. Taylor explained the only difference is administration fee is lowering.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the contract for professional services for Southern Five to administer the IRP loan fund. Motion passed by vote. Mr. Essex abstained.

Heather Biggerstaff with Southern Five provided an update on the grant and renovation of the Ambulance base. Mrs. Biggerstaff explained that the 1st payment estimates to Wissinger Construction, Inc., is for $55,683. Mrs. Biggerstaff also explained that the admiration fee for Southern Five is 25% at the beginning of the project, 25% at 50% complete, 25% at 75% complete, and 25% upon completion. Mrs. Biggerstaff explained that the firs 25% at project beginning was due for $8,125.

Mr. Griggs signed both checks.

Mrs. Biggerstaff then explained that the project has a surplus of $120,000. There was a discussion amongst the board, Mrs. Biggerstaff, Highway Engineer Nathan Bullard, and EMS Director Susan Bigham on how to spend the surplus. They decided on new appliances, signage close to the road and on the building, oil & chipping the driveway, and possible solar panels to help save money on electric bill. Mrs. Bigham said she would make a wish list and get with Southern Five to discuss it further.

Mrs. Biggerstaff wanted to explain that when the bid packets were sent out, they did not disclose that the contractor would need to be bonded to do the project.  Rural Development did not let Southern Five know till one day before bids were due that this would be a requirement so the bidders did not include the fees they would have to pay for the bonding or bank letter of credit.  Therefore, Wissinger Constructions is now asking to do a change order and be reimbursed for this fee as they did not expect to incur this expense.

The board believes that Wissinger should not be reimbursed for that. But they will address that a later time if it is brought back up by Mr. Wissinger.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex 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.

Mr. Griggs, and County Clerk Price signed the documents.

There was a discussion about the idea of having a resolution made to limit public comments at the board meeting. Mr. Price stated that he asked around to other counties to see what they do with public comments. Mr. Price stated that the one he handed to all the board members was the best one he found.

The board liked the one Mr. Price found, and asked to have it drawn up in resolution.

EMS Director Susan Bigham stated to the board that the Ambulance department is low on funds again, and will possibly need another loan made to them because they won’t be able to cover payments the next pay period time. After discussion with Treasurer Watkins, everyone agreed there should be a interfund loan from ARPA for $40,000.

Treasurer Watkins address the Workers Comp issue that was discussed at the May 23, 2023 board meeting. Mrs. Watkins stated she discovered that General Fund borrowed $35,000 from Workers Comp one loan for $15,000, and another for $20,000. Mrs. Watkins stated that she made two vouchers for General Fund to pay back Workers Comp.

Mrs. Watkins provided the budgetary status report to the board. Went over how to read it with them, and that she has been in talks with each office head to discuss their budgets as well.

Mrs. Watkins and Mr. Price discussed how each office cannot have a line-item for health insurance on each individual office, and how it needs to be a regular line-item on General Fund.

The board agreed with putting the health insurance line-item on just General Fund.

Karen Jones came in to discuss on behalf of Krishna Balakrishnan from Do Mor Development LLC, who introduced himself to the board at the May 9, 2023 meeting. Mr. Krishna had previously discussed with the board that he wanted to put a cannabis and dispensary lounge in Olive Branch. Karen Jones discussed with the board that Mr. Balakrishnan is on time crunch to get paperwork into the state for this dispensary, and would like the approval of the board for his location. The board expressed the concern of the lounge being there, and Mrs. Jones explained that Mr. Balakrishnan will not put a lounge in, and she will draw up a contract for him to sign stating he won’t put a lounge in, which will cover them until the State’s Attorney draws up the ordinance to not allow cannabis lounges in the county.

Mr. Griggs signed the documents to allow the location of the cannabis dispensary.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to pay claims between May 24th, 2023 – June 6th, 2023. 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.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk