**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**

**July 18th, 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 July 3rd, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Approval of the June 20th, 2023 Executive Session minutes were tabled until the August 1st, 2023 meeting.

Discussion of the Intergovernmental Agreement for The Operation of Pulaski County Detention Center Located in Pulaski County Illinois was tabled until the August 1st, 2023 meeting.

Heather Rose with Southern Five provided an update on the Ambulance base renovation, stating everything is going well. Ms. Rose had pay estimate #2 for $123,786.90 for the board to approve. The matching was $49,369.00, and the grant request is $74,417.90 through Rural Development.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of pay estimate #2 for $123,786.90. Motion passed by vote.

Ms. Rose provided the board with a wish list for the Ambulance base since the bid did come in under and they have extra funds to spend. Ms. Rose asked the board if they, and EMS Director Susan Bigham could prioritize what they want done the most, and let her know what they want.

Ms. Rose informed the board that Thursday July 27th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., was a progress meeting of the Ambulance base and everyone is welcome to attend.

Approval of Resolution 07182023-A: Resolution to allow payment authorization for reoccurring bills to the County Clerk & Treasurer was tabled until the August 1st, 2023 meeting. The board wanted Mr. Price to find out more of the statute that denies businesses of charging a late fee to Government entities. Mr. Bullard stated that the statute is the State Prompt Payment Act (30 ILCS 540). Mr. Price said he will look into this more and provide an update at the next meeting.

The GIS software conversion upgrade bill – tabled from last meeting, Mr. Griggs stated to go ahead and pay it out of ARPA.

Treasurer Watkins informed that the Ambulance Funds are low, and can no longer do an interfund loan because that would put the Ambulance department over their distribution amount they get. Mrs. Watkins stated that the Ambulance gets $60,000 from distribution, and they have already borrowed $40,000 in an interfund loan, and if they borrow another $40,000 that would put them over their distribution. Mrs. Watkins explained the best option is for the Ambulance is borrow $40,000 from ARPA, the board agreed.

The board and Mrs. Watkins discussed that the Ambulance fund issue, and how to help keep them afloat, and possibly having Ambulance funds being taken over by General Fund.

The board wants discussion of how to pay for Ambulance services on the August 1st, 2023 meeting.

Mrs. Watkins requested an Executive Session to discuss her full-time employee Vanessa Richard, and opening up the union contract to negotiate Ms. Richard pay. The board denied Mrs. Watkins request, stating they are no longer discussing this topic because the union, and the board have already agreed to the contract that is in place.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to pay claims between July 3rd – July 18th, 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 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk