**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 3rd, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Griggs @ 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call of Board Members:

* Joe E. Griggs: Present
* Bruce Sims: Present
* L. Steve Essex: Absent

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of the June 20th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Alexis Shreves, manager for Pulaski-Alexander/Massac County Farm Bureau, wanted to introduce herself to the board since she just became manager at the far bureau.

State’s Attorney Zach Gowin went over the Tri-County Detention Center contract with the board. Mr. Gowin stated the changes he noticed are transportation raised to $75/day, Pulaski Co. Detention Center has the right to decline a prisoner, 20% late fee, if a prisoner is hospitalized for more than 48hrs Alexander Co. is responsible for security coverage and if we can’t provide an officer for security, they want Alexander County to pay for their officer being there. Mr. Gowin, and Sheriff Brown stated they would not sign that contract.

Kendra Park from Southern Five came to the board to ask for the pay estimate #2 for the Ambulance base grant to be signed. Mr. Griggs asked Nathan Bullard if he should sign it. Mr. Bullard stated that he recommends that the board not sign it, because work is not being done in a timely manner, and that there is about $5,000-$10,000 not being completed. Mr. Bullard stated he would hold off signing that until the July 18th meeting. The board took Mr. Bullard’s advice and will hold off until the July 18th meeting.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to raise the Circuit Clerks salary to $42,000/year. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Gowin provided the board with documentation of cost for additional secretary for the State’s Attorney’s office. Mr. Gowin said he hasn’t had anyone submit a resume yet, and will need a budget increase later on before he officially hires someone. The board agreed.

The board asked Mr. Gowin about getting an ordinance to ban on-site cannabis consumption at dispensaries. Mr. Gowin said he would get it written up for them.

Leslye Krampe from Conexon Connect asked for a letter of support from Alexander County for their project to provide fiber optics internet in the county. Mr. Griggs signed the letter.

County Clerk Price came before the board to seek changing voting location for the Cairo, and Thebes Precincts. Mr. Price stated that the Thebes location is very outdated, hard to find, no parking, and just not well fit to be a polling place. Mr. Price stated he has found a new location called The Gathering Place, located at 32779 State Hwy 3, Thebes, IL. 62990. Mr. Price stated that there is enough parking, its ADA compliance, and much easier to find being located right off of Highway 3.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to move the Thebes polling location to The Gathering Place located at 32779 State Hwy 3, Thebes, IL. 62990. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Price explained that the population of Cairo has dwindled, Cairo 1 precinct location is closing permanently, and its hard-to-find enough election judges to cover all 5 locations. Mr. Price explained that we already use the Cairo Highschool gym for the voting day, and it makes more sense to have all the locations in one spot, and wouldn’t need to find as many elections judges.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to move Cairo 1, 2, and 3 up to the Cairo Highschool gym alongside with Cairo 4, and 5. Motion passed by vote.

Treasurer Watkins wanted to ask the board about a voucher for the Assessor to have a GIS conversion upgrade done out of ARPA for $16,000. Mrs. Watkins asked why it can’t come out of the GIS account, or even half of it, since there is $27,000 in the GIS account. Assessor Matlock was called and asked to ask why it can’t come out of GIS account or at least half. Ms. Matlock said it’s already been approved and no one is touching her GIS account. After the call ended the board wondered why we are paying $16,000 up front when nothing has been done yet. The board told Mr. Price to not pay it yet, until they know more about this bill and why its supposed to be paid for before any work is done. The voucher was tabled until the July 18th meeting.

Mrs. Watkins wanted to discuss her full-time employee, Vanessa Richard, leaving the union, and negotiating her pay. There was a brief discussion, and the board stated to Mrs. Watkins that until the union sends them a letter stating that Ms. Richard is no longer a union member that are following the union contract that is in place that sates Ms. Richard is a union member, and no more discussion will be had about it.

Mr. Price wanted to ask the about passing a resolution that gives the County Clerk, and the Treasurer the authority to pay reoccurring bills to help avoid late fees. Mr. Price provided another county’s ordinance that shows that it can be done. Mr. Price explained that many companies like Modern Office, and possibly the Detention Center with the 20% late fee hurts us with the late fees. Mr. Price further explained that many times we get bills in the day after a meeting and the due date passes before the next meeting so we get charged a late fee. Mr. Price stated that his resolution would really help the county in the long run avoid late fees. The board said they agreed with getting that done, and to table the resolution until the July 18th meeting.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval of Trustee Resolution 06-23-001. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to pay claims between June 20th – July 3rd, 2023. Motion passed by vote.

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

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

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

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to pay Alexander County Payroll. Motion passed by vote.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk