**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**

**September 12th, 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 August 29th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Regional Superintendent of Schools Matthen Hickam came before the board to discuss the 2023-2024 budget for ROE. Mr. Hickam explained that after he took office this year, that there is a grant that provides funds for 3 years, and this year they were denied that grant. Mr. Hickam stated they will be applying for that grant next year, to help with funding, but the ROE budget they will be submitting to the county for 2023-2024 will be $13,000 more because of the grant issue. Mr. Hickam said they biggest funding issue they have is rent for offices, and that is why the budget is so high.

The board asked Mr. Hickam to have a budget prepared to give to Treasurer Watkins, because she makes the budgets for the county. The board also asked Mr. Hickam to get on the agenda for the September 26th meeting.

The board received a highway toll bill for the ACEMA truck and gave it to ACEMA Director Mike Turner and asked if it was for work. Mr. Turner stated that it was because he went to Waukegan to get a boat and boat trailer for free. Mr. Turner explained that with all the floods we have around here, its not great having to find a boat in the time of crisis. Mr. Turner explained that someone was giving away a couple for free so he went and got them.

Mr. Griggs asked why he didn’t pay the toll at the time of travel. Mr. Turner explained that there are no people working toll booths anymore so they have cameras and just bill you later for the travel.

Mr. Turner also had a request about changing his pay periods from quarterly to monthly. Mr. Turner stated that he is turning 62 this year, and his social security will start. Mr. Turner explained that if he gets 4 quarterly payments a year, on those months he gets those payments it will mess with his social security. Mr. Turner said he does not want to change his pay amount; just change how he gets paid.

The board had no problem with his request since it doesn’t change the amount. County Clerk Price informed Mr. Turner to get with his Deputy Clerk Tara Harris to get this taken care of.

County Clerk Price informed the board that he was awarded a grant for $27,376 to have the courthouse parking lot between the concrete walkway and the courthouse side walked paved, and striped.

Mr. Price also presented the board with the 2 proofs of the county seals that James Arthur Design Co. The board and everyone else in the room agreed that option 1 was the best. The board said to continue with this and proceed to the next step.

EMS Director Susan Bigham presented the board with the Ambulance Departments financial report.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Griggs second the approval to pay claims between August 29th – September 12th, 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 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk