**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 26th, 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. Griggs second the approval of the September 12th, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion passed by vote.

Pam Barbee with Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board gave the board a 2022-2023 report card showing how many participants they served in all the counties. Ms. Barbee also wanted to remind the board of the services they provide, and how they help individuals get into the workforce.

Matthew Hickam the Regional Office of Education Superintendent presented the board with the FY24 budget. Mr. Hickam explained that it is about $600 higher than previous year, because they were denied a grant for this year that they usually depend on. Mr. Hickam said they will be applying for that grant next spring.

The board had no problems with his budget, and asked that they submit it to Treasurer Watkins to put in the budget.

Brittany Taylor with Southern 5 asked the board to approve pay estimate #4 for the Ambulance base grant of $65,650.50.

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval of pay estimate #4 of $65,650.50 for the Ambulance base grant. Motion passed by vote.

Ms. Taylor also stated there was a change order. Mr. Bullard explained it was to add a 3ft wall divider, and to change the hot mix asphalt from a 6ft mix to a 7ft mix.

Mr. Sims made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval of Trustee Deed Resolution 09-23-001. Motion passed by vote.

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

**New Business:**

County Clerk Zachary Price stated to the board that in the past two weeks there have been a couple of cyber security hacking scares. Mr. Price explained one was alerted to him from the Cyber Navigation team from the state, and they came down a couple Saturdays to resolve the issue. The second was while he was at his County Clerk conference, a group of hackers posed as the County Clerks, and sent emails to their Treasurers stating there needed to be a wire transfer. Mr. Price stated that Treasurer Watkins was communicating through email with these hackers for a period of time, before she asked Mr. Price if it was him. No money was transferred, and Mr. Price informed the state of the hacking incident, and they resolved it. Mr. Price explained how important it is for the county to have some cyber security training to help keep the county safe.

The board agreed with Mr. Price that we need some sort of cyber security training. Mr. Price said he would get it setup.

**Old Business:**

Judge Farris pointed out and thanked Mr. Price for getting a grant for $27,376 to pave and stripe the front half of the parking lot and around to the judges parking. Judge Farris stated that if someone is going to come down and do the parking lot you might want to do the whole parking lot and see about splitting it with the Building Commission. Judge Farris also stated that if they decided to do the back parking lot, he would forego his parking, which would take $4,000 off the $46,000 quote, and it would make it $42,000.

The board discussed how they would go upon paving the back parking lot, and possibly asking Mark Johnson if he would like to participate in this, since his office has a small parking lot connected to the courthouses. The board asked Mr. Price if he could get this part of the grant next year. Mr. Price stated that there are other precinct locations that need help too, and can’t spend it all on one location, and he doesn’t know how much he will get next year if at all.

**Claims:**

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Sims second the approval to pay claims between September 12th – September 26th, 2023. Motion passed by vote.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Essex made motion, and Mr. Essex second the approval to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by vote. Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Zachary C. Price, County Clerk