

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2021

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, February 8, 2021 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael Barnett
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
Cass County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnett, who directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Present	Hance	Present	Noe	Present
Gibson	Present	Hagloch	Present	Starkey	Present
Schaefer	Present	Douglass	Present	Merriman	Present
Wessel	Present	French	Present		

As a result of the roll call the Clerk states that all board members are present.

Chairman Barnett declares there is a quorum.

Chairman Barnett now leads the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator of the Cass County Health Department, presents an update on the latest information related to the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic. Cass County has 1854 positive cases, with 32 fatalities and 1794 individuals have recovered. Cass County remains the highest county per capita average in the State of Illinois. Armstrong states our region has moved from Tier 3 mitigation to Phase 4, which allows gatherings of up to 50 people.

Cass County Health Department received their first doses of the Moderna vaccine on December 22, 2020. At this time Phase 1A, which was limited to healthcare workers, is complete. Armstrong states they have now moved on to phase 1B, which includes persons aged 65 and older and frontline essential workers. Unfortunately, supply of vaccine has been limited and sporadic, which makes planning next to impossible. The State has heard their concerns and plans to send a minimum shipment of 200 doses on the same day each week.

On Friday, February 12, 2021, the Health Department will begin vaccinations at JBS.

Armstrong states that she is proud of her staff for stepping up during this trying time.

The county board thanks Teresa and her staff for the outstanding job that they have done during the pandemic.

Chairman Barnett next presents the minutes of the Cass County Board Meeting held on January 11, 2021. Noe makes a motion to approve the minutes and Douglass seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Under correspondence, Clerk Wessel presents the agreement to hire Kristina Clore of LKG Valuation Services, Inc. for the appraisal of JBS for \$5,000. This agreement was voted on by the full board during the Supervisor of Assessments Committee meeting held on January 18, 2021.

The second item is the approval of contract with Abateco, Inc. for the removal of asbestos in the States Attorney's office. Abateco submitted the lowest bid of \$7,000. This bid approval was voted on by the full board at the Courthouse and Jail Committee meeting held on February 4, 2021.

Hagloch, Chairman of the Road & Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on February 1, 2021 and approved all bills.

Hagloch, reporting for the Renovation Committee, reports that the bid opening for the asbestos removal in the States Attorney's office was held at 2:00 p.m. on February 4, 2021. There were 6 bids submitted and the lowest bid came in at \$7,000.00 from Abateco, Inc.

Noe, Chairman of the Courthouse and Jail Committee, reports the committee met on February 4, 2021 and approved all bills as presented. The lowest bid of \$7,000 from Abateco, Inc. for the asbestos removal was presented for approval.

Merriman, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reports the committee met on January 25, 2021.

Merriman, Chairman of the Animal Control Commission, reports they met on January 28, 2021 and discussed the dogs that are being left outside in the cold.

Cass Rural water will meet on February 16, 2021. Merriman states there is nothing to report at this time.

Hance reports that she attended her first Housing Board meeting. Hance is very impressed that Cass County manages 170 housing units.

Hance reports that an apartment at the housing on Grand avenue had a fire and work continues to repair the damage.

Hance also reports that a tenant in Ashland will not have their lease renewed and this is not due to Covid-19.

Starkey reports West Central Mass Transit is handing out flyers to try and increase their volume of business. Due to Covid-19 their revenue is down. They have lost contracts with Pathway, Elm City and the Cass County Resource Center. West Central Mass Transit applied for a grant, but because the state did not get the paperwork in on time they will not be awarded the grant.

Merriman, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessments Committee, reports they met on January 18, 2021 and discussed JBS.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 15, 2021. Chairman Barnett adds that the contract with LKG Valuations Services Inc. for the JBS appraisal was approved.

Hagloch reports the 9-1-1 board met on January 25, 2021, and approved all bills. The board will be meeting in person at the courthouse for the next meeting.

Douglass reports that Destinee Jones of Chandlerville has been awarded the MCS Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 for the second year in a row. Jones attends Western Illinois University.

Schaefer, reporting for the Cooperative Extension, reports that packets have been sent out and the scheduling for 2021 has begun.

Hance, reporting for OEDC, reports that Dustin Fritche is working with small businesses in Cass County.

Hance reports that the Village of Chandlerville has received grants for a new firehouse.

Gary Noe reports that the Roy French building on the square in Virginia may be sold.

Hance states that several Cass County business owners have been awarded a total of \$489,872.00 in grants from the Business Interruption Grant, the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant and the Hospitality Emergency Grant.

Schaefer, Liason for the Mental Health Board, reports that they have had 3 employees resign and seek employment at other locations for better insurance.

Starkey reports that a TIF board meeting will be held later this week.

Barnett reports that he met with JJ DeSollar, John Myers and Keith Moran to discuss potential projects for The TIF funds if the TIF District is extended. In order for the TIF District to be extended, there has to be a plan for additional housing development within the boundaries of the TIF District.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Finance and Judiciary

Legislative

Liquor Control

Policies and Procedures

Insurance and Bonds

MCS

Arenzville Rural Water

OEDC Tourism

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Clerk Wessel presents the appointments to the Mud Creek Drainage District and the E-9-1-1 Board. A motion to approve the appointments is made by Schaefer and seconded by Wessel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Chairman Barnett presents the Public Defender's Contract for approval. Merriman makes a motion to approve the Public Defender's Contract and Gibson seconds the motion.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Yes
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Gibson	Yes	Hagloch	Yes	Starkey	Yes
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Schaefer	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Merriman	Yes
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Wessel	Yes	French	Yes		
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As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

(See Attached Public Defender's Contract)

Chairman Barnett next presents the Petit/Grand Jury Resolution. A motion to approve the Resolution is made by Schaefer and seconded by Wessel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Chairman Barnett presents the Engineering Contracts with Hutchison Engineering for the Bridge West of Arenzville and for County Highway 8. Gibson moves to approve both contracts and Douglass seconds the motion.

Chairman Barnett directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Yes
Gibson	Yes	Hagloch	Yes	Starkey	Yes
Schaefer	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Merriman	Yes
Wessel	Yes	French	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

(See Attached Contracts)

The Clerk presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Zoning Officer and Death Examiner. A motion to receive the monthly reports is made by Merriman and seconded by Hance. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The approval of claims is next presented to the board. A motion to approve the claims is made by Hagloch and seconded by Wessel.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Yes
Gibson	Yes	Hagloch	Yes	Starkey	Yes
Schaefer	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Merriman	Yes
Wessel	Yes	French	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

Chairman Barnett states there are no matters to discuss in Executive Session.

At approximately 7:36 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of March 8, 2021 is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk