

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

March 8, 2021

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, March 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 1,902 positive cases, with 32 fatalities and 1,857 individuals have recovered. Cass County remains the highest county per capita average in the State of Illinois. Armstrong states our test positivity 7-day rolling average is currently 1.6%, with the region at 2%.

Cass County has 16.53% fully vaccinated, which is the 3rd highest in the State of Illinois.

Armstrong states that the Health Department has implemented a website that allows people to schedule their own vaccinations. The staff is still accepting phone calls from people that do not have access to the internet.

The Cass County Health Department will be receiving a Pandemic Navigator Grant. The grant will allow Armstrong to hire 7 new staff members.

Chairman Barnett asks Teresa her thoughts on opening the Courthouse.

Armstrong states that she feels it is safe to open the courthouse as long as we continue to maintain social distancing and require that everyone wears a mask. Everyone at the courthouse that wants to be vaccinated has been.

States Attorney, Craig Miller, states that on high traffic days they struggle to have a deputy at the door and a bailiff at the same time.

Chairman Barnett will ask Sheriff Ohrn to meet with States Attorney Miller to discuss the plan for opening the courthouse. Barnett states we have funding available for court security.

Merriman makes a motion to open the courthouse on April 13, 2021, and begin conducting all meetings in person starting May 1, 2021, and Douglass seconds the motion. The teleconference line will still be available for anyone that is not comfortable meeting in person.

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 next presents the minutes of the Cass County Board Meeting held on February 8, 2021. Douglass makes a motion to approve the minutes and Hance seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Under correspondence, Clerk Wessel states she received a thank you card from the Beardstown Chamber of Commerce for the County Boards continued support of the chamber.

Noe, Chairman of the Courthouse and Jail Committee, reports the committee met on March 4th and approved all bills.

Hagloch, Chairman of the Road & Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on March 1, 2021 and approved all bills and because the meeting was early in the month Highway Engineer Tim Icenogle was given permission from the committee to sign and submit all other claims that come in for the month.

Merriman, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports the committee met on February 22, 2021.

Animal control met on February 25, 2021. The Animal Control Commission is looking for property in Beardstown to be used for a dog pound.

Cass Rural Water met on February 16, 2021. The water district has completed the installation of 4.4 miles of water line along Centenary Road. There are 10 new people interested in signing up with Cass Rural Water. Last month the water district showed a profit of \$7,600.00.

Hance reports that the Housing Authority's budget has been finalized. There was \$100,000 budgeted to tear down Garner building B. This is a Rural Development Project and therefore the budgeted amount for this project has to be approved by Rural Development.

Hance, reporting for the Health Board, reports that the Cass County Health Department will be receiving a \$400,000 grant. The Health Department has purchased a house in Virginia at 431 S. Front Street to be used for the pandemic. Once the pandemic is over the house will be used to store donations of clothes, etc.

Starkey reports that Public Transit met on March 2, 2021, and they are looking for a new director. The current director will be there for a couple more years, but this will give the new director time to get trained.

Bob Schaefer states he was contacted by a group of individuals about the county legalizing 16 year old's driving side by sides on county roads. Merriman says this was discussed at the last Public Safety meeting. Chairman Barnett suggests that all board members be invited to the Public Safety Committee meeting in May. States Attorney Miller and Sherriff Ohrn will be invited to attend the meeting as well.

Tim Icenogle states that the county's insurance company will tell you not to approve it.

Chairman Barnett will contact Eric Snedeker about the issue.

Under Legislation, Chairman Barnett reports that HB3653 eliminates qualified immunity for individual police officers. The county is not in favor of this elimination of qualified immunity.

E-9-1-1 met on February 22, 2021, and approved all bills.

Schaefer reports that Arenzville Rural Water met on February 23, 2021, and approved all bills. The water district needs to get

20 more easements. Property owners in this area own part of the road and are not being very cooperative. The water district might have to figure out a different way to get around some of the properties to get water hooked up.

Noe, reporting for OEDC, reports that the bicycle path in Beardstown has been completed. The Beardstown Bar to Bar Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2021. Tom Allen gave a report on the hotspots for the Marina. Kim Hance reported that the Beardstown Star Gazette is struggling financially.

Schaefer, reporting for the Mental Health Board, said they did not have a meeting, but Diana Feigl had called and said a resident at one of the housing complexes had passed away in the building. This death was due to natural causes and she did not want anyone to be alarmed about it.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Policies and Procedures

Insurance and Bonds

MCS

Coop Extension

OEDC Tourism

Beardstown TIF

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Chairman Barnett presents a Resolution Opposing Reductions to LGDF Revenue. Merriman makes a motion to approve the Resolution and Schaefer seconds the motion.

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.

(See Attached Resolution)

Chairman Barnett next presents the approval of the Cass County Trustee Resolution. A motion to approve the Resolution is made by Starkey seconded by Gibson. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Merriman, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessments Committee, reports that the committee met on February 15, 2021. The Assessor reported that a total of 40 complaints were received and the Board of Review held 4 hearings. The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2021.

The Clerk presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Zoning Officer and Death Examiner and Maintenance. A motion to receive the monthly reports is made by Wessel 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 Douglass and seconded by Starkey.

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 8:00 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of April 12, 2021 is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk