

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

September 13, 2021

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael Barnett
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
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.

Chairman Barnett welcomes Dave & Ann Jurgens and Jeff, Cheryl & Phillip Baer to the meeting.

Ann Jurgens states they all came to share their concerns about the DT program. Jurgen's states there is a lot of confusion following the last Mental Health Board meeting.

Ms. Jurgens understands that the county board has no authority over the Mental Health Board. Ms. Jurgens is aware that it is not safe to open the DT program during the spike in

Covid-19 cases, but they would like to see some action taken towards getting the DT program ready for reopening once it is safe to do so. They are at a loss of where to go or who to talk to and would like suggestions on how to move forward.

Jeff Baer states that the DT program is very important to the families that attend the DT Program and everyone needs to work as a team to get the DT program back up and running.

Chairman Barnett states that he attended the Mental Health Board meeting a couple of months ago and also met with Diana Feigl on Friday, September 10, 2021, and the consensus from everyone is to get the DT Program reopened and re-established but safety is the main issue right now.

Schaefer states that once all requirements are met and it's safe they plan to restart the DT Program. The next Mental Health Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. The DT program will be discussed at that meeting.

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator of the Cass County Health Department, next presents an update on the latest information related to the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic. Armstrong states that Cass County is having a surge again in Covid -19 cases. Cass County like most of Illinois, is now at the high level of community transmission. To date Cass County has 2,428 positive cases, with 39 fatalities and 2311 individuals recovered. Cass County Health Clinic to date has provided 12,073 vaccines to Cass County residents and others employed in the county and surrounding area. Armstrong reports 48% of Cass County residents are fully vaccinated. They continue to offer clinics weekly in both Virginia and Beardstown, as well as pop-up clinics throughout the county. Armstrong reports that 86% of all new Cass County cases are unvaccinated people.

Armstrong reports that all healthcare workers are mandated to be vaccinated unless the individual has religious reasons or health risks. All businesses with 100 or more employees are required to be vaccinated or tested weekly.

The 3rd dose vaccine is available to anyone immunocompromised. A booster vaccine is not approved yet. Once approved a booster can be given to anyone that received their last dose at least 8 months ago.

Chairman Barnett next presents the minutes of the Cass County Board meeting held on August 9, 2021. Merriman makes a motion to approve the minutes and Gibson seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Douglass, reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on September 9, 2021, and approved all bills as presented.

Merriman, reporting for the Road and Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on September 9, 2021 and approved all bills.

Merriman, Chairman of the Animal Control Commission, reports they met on August 26th. Beardstown City Council member, Shawn Taylor, is the new representative for Beardstown.

Cass Rural Water met on August 17th. They still have a 6% water loss. Aldermen from Pleasant Plains are interested in rural water. A meeting with the Village of Chandlerville board did not go well.

Gibson reports that the Health Department is now sending counselors to the school districts to assist students who are having issues dealing with COVID-19.

Starkey reports that West Central Transit met and they will be posting a position for Human Resource Director. They are still searching for an assistant for Jean Jumper.

Ridership is up significantly across the board.

A parent in Beardstown recently wrote a grant for student transportation to Jacksonville Our Saviors/Routt Catholic School District. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$100 a day for transportation.

Chairman Barnett, reporting for the Finance and Judiciary Committee, reports that he met with Nicole Bell last week to resolve some budget issues. It is tentatively agreed that the majority of Patty Dennie's duties will be absorbed within the office. Patty has agreed to come in on a day to day basis when everyone has to be out of the office.

Merriman reports that the Supervisor of Assessments Committee met on August 16, 2021. The Assessor has been working on drainage district splits and her employees have been out surveying. Clerk Wessel states that the Assessor has also been assisting her and the GIS Coordinator with establishing the boundary of the Ashland Fire Protection District for tax code purposes. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Hagloch reports that the Insurance Risk Manager, Mike Kirchner, contacted him to schedule a meeting to discuss the upcoming increase in insurance rates. Hagloch informed Kirchner that the increases have already been discussed with the full board at the Finance Committee meeting held in August and that the county board has agreed to continue with the current 50/50 split with the employees so there is no need for a Health Insurance meeting at this time.

Hagloch reports E-9-1-1 met on August 23, 2021 and approved all bills.

Schaefer reports that Arenzville Rural Water had a 37% water loss. A 20 ft long piece of pipe in front of Roger Lauder's house

had a hairline crack. They are still working on getting easements at The Farm.

Noe, reporting for OEDC, states that they met on August 25th and discussed grant programs. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Caraway Pub in Virginia. There will be a new ice cream shop in Beardstown and Ross Blakeman is opening up a new floral shop on the square in Beardstown.

Schaefer, reporting for the Mental Health Board, reports they will be meeting on September 15, 2021 at noon.

Hance reports that Governor Pritzker has signed the legislation extending Beardstown TIF 1. Keith Moran will guide the Beardstown City Council through finalizing the details of the extension.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Housing

Legislative

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Policies and Procedures

MCS

OEDC Tourism

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Chairman Barnett presents the Appointments to New Pankey Pond Special Drainage District, South Sangamon Drainage and Levee District and Clear Lake Special Drainage District. A motion to approve the appointments is made by Schaefer and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Clerk Wessel presents for Approval the Cass County Trustee Resolution. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Merriman and seconded by Wessel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

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

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 8:03 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of October 11, 2021 is made by Gibson and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk