

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

August 12, 2019

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Court Room, on Monday, August 12, 2019 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mike Barnett
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
Cass County Clerk

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

Roll Call:

Barnett	Present	Noe	Present	Schaefer	Present
Millard	Present	Hagloch	Present	Merriman	Present
Starkey	Present	Douglass	Present	Hance	Absent
Wessel	Present	Brannan	Present		

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

Chairman Barnett states there is a quorum.

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

Chairman Barnett introduces Loren Hamilton of Morgan and Scott County Crime Stoppers.

Mr. Hamilton introduces himself as an employee of the Jacksonville Police Department and as the Coordinator of Morgan/Scott County Crime Stoppers for the last 7 years. Hamilton is also in his second term as Illinois State Crime Stoppers President.

Hamilton explains that Crime Stoppers accepts tips on known and unknown crimes and also on wanted individuals. He explains that 60 - 70% of the tips received are drug related.

Hamilton states there are 4 different ways to report tips to Crime Stoppers. You can report by phone, website, text and/or social media.

Hamilton explains that the tips received are given to the local law enforcement.

Hamilton states that the West Central Drug Task Force receives all of the drug related tips.

Hamilton states they also have a crime prevention program for children that features McGruff the Crime Dog. They plan on doing a drug prevention program this fall for grade school children.

Hamilton states that in the last quarter from April to June they received 96 tips, made 12 arrests, solved 8 crimes, and paid out \$2100 in rewards.

Starkey asks Hamilton where the funding comes from to pay out the rewards. Hamilton explains that a Crime Stoppers Fee has been added to the fines in Morgan and Scott County. These additional fees provide the resources to pay the rewards.

Hamilton states that he is looking for individuals to serve on the Crime Stoppers Board. Hamilton reports that he has 3 individuals that are willing to serve on the board but he would like to have a total of 5 board members from Cass County.

Hamilton states that he is also seeking assistance with putting new Crime Stopper signs with current contact information up at the entrances of each community in Cass County.

Chairman Barnett asks Hamilton what the estimated cost would be for the new signs for the five communities in Cass County. Hamilton estimates the cost to be \$1000 but states the cost could possibly be covered by donations. Hamilton states that some of the signs may need to be in Spanish.

Chairman Barnett states that Tim Icenogle, Cass County Highway Engineer, could have his employees assist with putting up the new Crime Stopper signs and removing any old signs throughout Cass County.

Chairman Barnett next introduces Dustin Fritsche.

Fritsche reports the O.E.D.C. has scheduled an Active Shooter Presentation on Thursday, August 15, 2019 from 1 - 4:30 p.m. at St. Luke Hall in Virginia. Fritsche states this presentation is to help business owners and public agencies practice, prepare, and plan for an active shooter situation.

Chairman Barnett next presents the minutes from the July 8, 2019 Cass County Board Meeting for approval.

Schaefer makes a motion to approve the minutes and Millard seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Barnett directs the Clerk to read the correspondence.

The Clerk states the Cass County Board received a thank you card from Rebecca Ring for the Cass County Citizen Scholarship.

The Clerk reminds the board members about the Finance meeting that will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Barnett next calls for reports from the standing committees:

Noe, Chairman of the Courthouse and Jail Committee, reports the Committee met on August 8, 2019 and approved all bills as presented.

Hagloch, Chairman of the Road and Bridge Committee, reports they met on August 5, 2019 and approved all bills. The next meeting date and time have been changed to Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Merriman, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports the committee met July 22, 2019. Merriman states the committee received an ESDA report from Roger Lauder.

Merriman, reports that the Cass Rural Water Board met July 16, 2019. Merriman reports that Cass Rural Water had fallen behind on payments to the City of Virginia for water and have been making double payments to get caught up. Merriman reports after this month the payments will be caught up and they should start showing a profit.

Animal Control met on July 25, 2019 but did not have a quorum. Three dogs were picked up and all three were returned to their owners.

Brannan reports the Housing Authority Board met on July 18, 2019. Brannan reports \$10,000 was received to help cover the \$10,378 worth of wind damage to some of the AC Units at Sagebrook Estates.

Brannan reports they are looking for areas in all communities to build more affordable housing units.

J.R. Blair reported that there are many lots in Ashland and 2 or 3 lots in Chandlerville that could be good locations, but there is not much available in Arenzville.

Brannan reports there is still no news on the lawsuit.

Brannan, Liaison for the Health Board, reports they met on July 24, 2019.

Brannan reports that Dr. Curry is on vacation and will return on August 15, 2019.

Brannan reports they reviewed and approved the audit.

Josh Millard, reporting for the Legislative Committee, tells the board he will be traveling to Washington D.C. in September to lobby on Cass County's behalf.

One of the topics Millard will be addressing is Rural Connectivity. Millard states that most Rural Connectivity funds are going to Internet Connectivity as opposed to increasing cell phone service in the poor service areas. Millard had previously approached Darin LaHood's Chief of Staff regarding the need for a cell phone tower in Arenzville.

Millard would like the board to communicate to him additional topics that they would like him to discuss with Cass County's local representatives while he is in Washington.

The Board discusses that there is also a need for cell phone service in Chandlerville. Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area averages 750,000 visitors a year.

The Board schedules a meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Finance Committee meeting to share with Millard some of the needs they would like to see addressed.

Merriman, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessment's Committee, reports the committee met on July 15, 2019.

Merriman reports the Beacon Website is still not updating. Icenogle states they are still trying to coordinate with Devnet to resolve this issue.

Merriman states the next meeting will be held August 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Schaefer, reporting for Policies and Procedures, reports that progress has been made on the Cass County Website with data being entered.

Schaefer would also like to address the new cannabis law that will be coming into effect. Schaefer states that the County is leaning towards a Zero Tolerance Policy that will be addressed at a later date.

Hagloch, reporting for E-9-1-1, reports they met on July 22, 2019 and approved all bills.

Hagloch reports they are still working on the dispatch contracts for the County and Beardstown.

Schaefer, Liaison for Arenzville Rural Water, reports they met on July 16, 2019. Schaefer reports they are collecting easements.

Schaefer states he has no report for Cooperative Extension but would like to recommend Cass Wessel to serve on the Cooperative Extension Board and to attend the quarterly meetings.

Noe, reporting for O.E.D.C., reports they met July 25, 2019. Fritsche reported on the Cass County Fair and stated that everything went well.

Fritsche also reported that he was working with IDOT to put up some advertising signs for a local business at the entrances of Virginia.

Noe reports Icenogle and Lauder will be having a meeting to discuss flood related costs. They hope to have the money by December.

Noe reports Lincoln Land Community College will be having an open house on July 31, 2019.

Barnett next gives the Chairman's report.

Chairman Barnett reports that on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., prior to the Virginia City Council Meeting, Saul Garcia from the U.S. Department of Census will present a joint program for the City of Virginia and Cass County. Barnett encourages any Board Members that are available to attend.

Barnett emphasizes importance of the census. Barnett states that the numbers reported for the county will apply for the next 10 years. Barnett reports that any per capita payments that come from the state or federal government are based on those numbers. According to Garcia the numbers reported in April 2010 were 29.642% short of the estimated population.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Insurance and Bonds

MCS

Coop. Ext.

Mental Health

Beardstown TIF

O.E.D.C. Tourism

The Board now moves on to new business.

Clerk Wessel presents the Cass County Trustee Resolution for approval.

Douglass makes a motion to approve the Resolution and Starkey seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Tim Icenogle reports he spoke with the City of Virginia's attorney, Tom Veith, regarding changes Mr. Veith wants made to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Cass County, the City of Virginia and Virginia Road District. This agreement allows the County through the Highway Engineer, to seek funding for the upgrades to the roads around the Sunrise FS Expansion.

Icenogle reports that Sunrise FS forwarded a check to the County for \$25,000 to help expedite the road improvement process. Icenogle reports the County has entered into an agreement with Hutchinson Engineering to begin getting estimates. This will enable the County to apply for funds and grants to help cover the cost of the improvements to the roads.

Icenogle next recommends that the County Board authorize the Road and Bridge Committee to act on their behalf regarding the County Highway building contracts and all other items associated with the County Highway building.

Schaefer makes a motion to authorize the Road and Bridge Committee to act on behalf of the board for County Highway building contracts and Brannan seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Icenogle presents for approval two engineering contracts for bridges that need to be replaced.

The first contract with Hutchinson Engineering is in the amount of \$71,500, for the bridge in Chandlerville Township on North Dirks Road.

The second contract with Hutchinson Engineering is in the amount of \$55,000 for a bridge in Virginia Township on Guntown Road.

Merriman makes a motion to approve both contracts and Starkey seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Contracts)

Icenogle reports that he and Roger Lauder attended a meeting with FEMA. Icenogle states that they submitted requests for \$750,000 worth of excessive costs for damage due to flooding issues. Icenogle states Cass County meets the requirements to be declared a disaster area.

Icenogle reports the declaration will still need to be signed by Congress or the President.

Chairman Barnett presents the appointments of Matt Bangert to the Meredosia Lake Drainage & Levee District and Richard Kirchner to the Old River Drainage & Levee District.

Wessel makes a motion to approve the appointments and Douglass seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Chairman Barnett next asks if there is any other new business to be discussed.

There is no other new business

The Clerk presents the monthly reports of the Sheriff, Treasurer, County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Zoning Officer, Death Examiner and Maintenance Engineer.

Starkey makes a motion to receive the monthly reports and Millard seconds the motion. 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 Brannan. Chairman Barnett directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Noe	Yes	Hance	Absent
Millard	Yes	Hagloch	Yes	Schaefer	Yes
Starkey	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Merriman	Yes
Brannan	Yes	Wessel	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states 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 8:06 p.m., a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of September 9, 2019 is made by Wessel and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel
Clerk