

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2023

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, March 13, 2023 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Bill Merriman
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
County Clerk

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

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Present	Wessel	Present	Douglass	Present
French	Present	Starkey	Present	Noe	Present
Hance	Present	Schultz	Present	Gibson	Present
Ruppel	Present	Snellgrove	Present		

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

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

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

Reg Ankrom President of Energy LLC addresses the board. Ankrom states that Cass County has been a part of the Electric Aggregation Program since 2014.

Coal Plants are shutting down therefore, there is a shortage in the generation market. Ameren has doubled their rates and is currently at 11.833 kWh.

Illinois Power Marketing Company d/b/a as Homefield Energy was the winning bidder for Cass County with a rate of 11.3 kWh. The agreement will run from July 2023 through July 2024.

The agreement was approved by the full board at the February 13, 2023 county board meeting.

Dale Hadden, President of Cass Morgan Farm Bureau, is here to propose a Resolution declaring that Cass County is Pro-Agriculture. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Hance and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Dustin Fritsche, OEDC Coordinator, states he is planning a guided tour of Jim Edgar Panther Creek and all State and Local Officials will be invited to attend.

Fritsche is looking into providing technology training and driving lessons for individuals that do not speak English.

Chairman Merriman next presents the minutes of the February 13, 2023, Cass County Board meeting. Douglass moves to approve the minutes and Hance seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Noe, reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on February 9, 2023, and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reports the committee met on February 27, 2023. Roger Lauder gave an E.S.D.A. report.

Hance, reports that the Housing Authority Board met on February 16, 2023. The Housing Authority is accepting bids for asbestos removal and demolition of the Eddie Garnier Apartment B Building.

Hance, Liason of the Health Board reports the board met on February 22, 2023. The renovations of the new facility in Beardstown should be finished by May.

Snellgrove reports the Animal Control Commission met on February 26, 2023. Tracey still plans on retiring on May 1, 2023. An ad has been placed in the newspaper for a new Animal Control Warden. The deadline to submit applications is March 15, 2023.

French, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessment Committee, reports the Assessor has received 29 complaints. Caraustar has hired an attorney to contest their assessment.

Wessel, Chairman of the Road and Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on March 6, 2023, and approved all bills.

Wessel, Chairman of the Insurance and Bonds Committee, reports the committee met on February 21st. Snedeker is looking into other insurance options and will propose them in June or July during budget meetings.

A proposal from Dan Snodgrass from Essential Wealth Strategies will also be presented at the budget meeting.

French reports that the E-9-1-1 board met and approved all bills.

Noe, Liason for OEDC states he has nothing more to add to Dustin Fritsche's report.

Starkey reports that a Transit meeting was held on March 9, 2023. Transit is looking for full time dispatchers and part time drivers. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2023.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Legislative

Policies and Procedures

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

MCS

Cass Rural Water

Cooperative Extension

Mental Health 708

TIF

OEDC Tourism

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Chairman Merriman presents a Resolution increasing the RHSP Fees (Public Act 102-1135). A motion to approve the resolution is made by Noe and seconded by Starkey.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Yes	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

(See Attached Resolution)

Chairman Merriman next presents a Resolution Transferring Funds within the County Treasury. Douglass moves to approve the resolution and Gibson seconds the motion.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Yes	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

(See Attached Resolution)

The Chairman next 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 Starkey and seconded by Ruppel. 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 French and seconded by Starkey.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk call roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Yes	Douglass	Yes
French	Yes	Starkey	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Gibson	Yes
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

At approximately 7:34 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of April 10, 2023, is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk