

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

September 11, 2017

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Jury Room, on Monday, September 11, 2017 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: David E. Parish
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
Cass County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parish, who directed the Clerk to call roll.

Roll Call:

Parish	Present	Barnett	Present	Noe	Present
Lynn	Absent	Hagloch	Present	Schaefer	Present
Starkey	Present	Douglass	Present	Merriman	Present
Wessel	Absent	Brannan	Present		

As a result of the roll call the Clerk states that all board members are present except for board members Lynn and Wessel.

Chairman Parish states there is a quorum.

Chairman Parish now leads the board in the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Parish then opens the floor to public comment.

Sally Lael and Ron Culves, of the Beardstown City Council, express concerns regarding the Public Safety Sales Tax, specifically how the funds are managed and the benefits of the Tax to the communities in Cass County.

Culves states that in the last fiscal year Beardstown's Police, Fire, and Ambulance service costs were \$1.6 million. The County Ambulance levy covered approximately \$130,000, with the

rest of the costs covered by billable services. Beardstown Ambulance provides service for 52% of Cass County. Last fiscal year the Ambulance service had a \$120,000 deficit.

The E-9-1-1 Dispatching Service Contract for 2018 will cost the city \$76,000. Beardstown's higher population leads to higher dispatching costs. Beardstown's higher population also means more contributions to the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Culves mentions that members of Beardstown Police, Fire, and Ambulance services are having concerns with the equipment and resources they have to keep themselves safe and the public safe.

Culves states that of the \$740,000 collected by the Public Safety Sales Tax in 2016, a little over \$400,000 went to the County Sheriff's Department. Beardstown has 8 full-time officers, and the officers often operate outside of the city limits. Culves feels the bulk of the Sheriff's services are not allocated to the City of Beardstown.

Culves states the people who have approached Board Members regarding the Public Safety Sales Tax say they have been met with resistance.

Barnett thanks Culves and Lael for voicing their concerns.

Barnett states the Public Safety Sales Tax was chosen to spread costs across the whole county, rather than relying solely on property taxes. When the County proposed the referenda in 2009 the Board promised to reduce the County General Fund Levy the first year by \$250,000, and has fulfilled that promise for several years.

The County also offers a \$2,000 grant per year to police, ambulances, and fire departments from the Public Safety Sales Tax funds.

Barnett states the county deputies handle the majority of the transporting of prisoners to and from court. The county also provides the Public Defender, Circuit Court, Probation Officers, State's Attorney and Judge.

Barnett states that prisoner housing cost the County \$8,000 for just the last month.

Barnett states that over the last 7 years, the County has transferred 6 or 7 squad cars including all of the equipment to the City of Beardstown for their police force.

The County Board has also approved the formation of T.I.F. districts, which reduced the amount of tax funds received by the County and increased the amount of tax funds to the City.

Barnett states that the county board has worked closely with the City of Beardstown and we continue to do our part in the partnership with the City of Beardstown.

Lael and Culves again encourage the Board to review the Public Safety Sales Tax line items.

The Clerk next reads the minutes from the August 14, 2017 Cass County Board Meeting.

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

The Chairman directs the Clerk to read the Correspondence.

The Clerk states the Beardstown Rural Fire District held a lottery for the terms of office. Chambers' term expires in 2019, McClenning's in 2020, and Brannan's in 2021.

Reg Ankrom notified the Clerk that Ameren customers who participated in the electric aggregation will receive a \$3.50 credit per month for the next ten months. This credit is designed to offset the difference between Ameren's rate and the Homefield aggregation rate, since Ameren's rate was less.

Chairman Parish next calls for reports from the standing committees:

Clerk Wessel, reporting for the Courthouse and Jail committee, reports the committee met on September 7th and approved all bills as presented.

Hagloch reports the Road and Bridge committee met on September 5th and approved all bills.

Merriman, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports the committee met on August 28th.

Merriman reports Animal Control met on August 24th. Twenty-one dogs were picked up, three were returned to owners, two were adopted, and sixteen were euthanized.

Merriman reports Cass Rural Water met. The Newmansville Road extension received a grant for \$182,000, along with a loan for \$165,000. Construction should begin in October or November and should take about a week. The extension will add 23 customers.

Brannan, reporting for the Housing Committee, reports the committee met August 10th and will meet again September 14th.

Brannan, reporting for the Health Board, reports the Health Department is working on finishing the accreditation for Rochelle Briney.

The total cost per patient overall for Cass County is \$611.38.

Barnett, reporting for MECCA, reports he committee met with Ashland, Chandlerville, and Virginia officials to present the ambulance replacement outline. Beardstown mayor Leslie Harris seems very receptive of the plan. There still needs to be a discussion with T.J. Wessel, the attorney for Arenzville.

Barnett and Parish presented the ambulance proposal and facilities to Chris Troxell, the EMS Director for Mason County. Troxell has to go through the proposal with the Chief Financial Officer and the hospital.

Icenogle mentions if they vacate the current Highway Department building they will still have to find a place for Animal Control. The current requirements for the building are two bays, a full service restroom with showers, three rooms for sleeping, and a wash bay. It may be better to build a completely new building for Ambulance and leave the Ballpark building for Animal Control.

Merriman, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessments Committee, reports the committee met August 21st. 122 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze exemptions have been issued. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th, and all Township Supervisors are invited to attend.

There are talked of the Beardstown Township Assessor position being absorbed by the County.

Schaefer, reporting for the Policies and Procedures Committee, asks the Board to read through the Cass County Policy Manual.

Clerk Wessel clarifies that union contracts supersede the Policy Manual in the event of a conflict.

Hagloch, reporting for the Insurance and Bonds Committee, reports the committee met August 28th. The employee members were offered increase options and the general consensus is a lower premium/higher deductible plan preference. The increase has been discussed with the Fraternal Order of Police, and they have no problem with the increase.

Hagloch, reporting for the E-9-1-1 Committee, reports the committee met August 28th and approved all bills.

Parish notes the 2018 E-9-1-1 Dispatching Contract was received.

Barnett suggests requesting a 5% abatement on the increase and using the funds towards the \$2/capita ambulance charge.

Noe, reporting for O.E.D.C, reports Dustin Fritsche is looking in to building an indoor soccer facility.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Finance and Judiciary

Legislative

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Rural Water

Mental Health

Resource Conservation

O.E.D.C. Tourism

Beardstown T.I.F.

Cooperative Extension

MCS Community Services

The Board next moves on to new business.

The Clerk presents the appointments to various drainage districts, Beardstown Rural Fire District, Cass Rural Water District No. 1, and the E-9-1-1 Board. Appointments are also presented for the Open Meeting Act Designee, Freedom of Information Act Officer, and Americans with Disabilities Act Administrator. A motion to approve the appointment is made by Brannan and seconded by Barnett. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The Clerk next presents the monthly reports for the Sheriff, Treasurer, Zoning Officer, Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Death Examiner, Maintenance Engineer, and State's Attorney. A motion to receive the reports is made by Merriman and seconded by Hagloch. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The approval of claims is next presented. A motion to approve the claims is made by Hagloch and seconded by Brannan. Chairman Parish directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Parish	Yes	Barnett	Yes	Noe	Yes
Lynn	Absent	Hagloch	Yes	Schaefer	Yes
Starkey	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Merriman	Yes
Wessel	Absent	Brannan	Yes		

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

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

At approximately 8:20 p.m., a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of October 9, 2017 is made by Noe and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.