

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

October 14, 2024

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, October 14, 2024 at the hour of 6:00 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	Absent	Snellgrove	Present		

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

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

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

Representatives for United Sovereign Americans presented a Resolution for a Legally Valid 2024 General Election.

Audra Elam gave a presentation on the Fellows Program from Western Illinois University.

Cass County Treasurer Travis Cox read a comment made on Facebook by one of the board members. As Treasurer, Cox took offense to the comment because the county has been in the best financial shape for many years. The proposed general fund levy

for tax year 2024 pay 2025 is only \$68,000 when the county could levy 1.5 million for the General Fund.

Board Member Snellgrove admits to being the one to make the facebook comment. His concern is over the E.R.I. recently passed by the majority of the board.

Chairman Merriman presents the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Cass County Board meeting. French moves to approve the minutes and Gibson seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Under Correspondence the Clerk states that she received the updated inventory for the Cass County Highway Department. A motion to receive the updated inventory is made by Starkey and seconded by French. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Noe reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on October 10, 2024, and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports her committee met on September 23, 2024. Roger Lauder gave a report on Genasys.

Gibson reports the Health Department Board met on September 25, 2024. There is a new counselor in the Beardstown School District. The Teen Reach Program has a waiting list.

Snellgrove reports that the Animal Control Commission met on September 25, 2024. There was a parvo outbreak and some of the animals had to be euthanized. The state inspector reported that the Animal Control Commission needs to purchase new kennels. The estimated cost of the new kennels is \$25,000.

The Road and Bridge Committee met on September 5, 2024 and approved all bills. Hall Bridge will hopefully be open sometime in November.

French reports the E-9-1-1 board met and discussed the new radio system.

Gibson reports that MCS is doing well. Funding was discussed. The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2024.

Noe reports that OEDC met on September 26, 2024. A new director is at Jim Edgar Panther Creek. Mayor Harris reported that the Beardstown Fall Fun Festival was a huge success.

Starkey, Liaison for Tourism, reports that the social media pages have been reached by 1,339 in the last 28 days.

Starkey reports the TIF board received funding requests from E & M, 4 All Seasons and Buffy Tillitt-Pratt.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Rural Water

Legislative

Supervisor of Assessments

Policies and Procedures

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Insurance and Bonds

Cooperative Extension

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

The appointments to Cass County Planning Commission and Meredosia Lake Drainage and Levee District are presented for approval. A motion to approve the appointments is made by Gibson and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Chairman Merriman next presents the Resolution Transferring Funds in the County Treasury. A motion to approve the Resolution is made by French and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Merriman next presents the Decommissioning Bond for Clear Creek Solar Project. A motion to approve the decommissioning bond is made by French and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Bond)

Chairman Merriman next presents the Petit/Grand Jury Resolution. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Wessel and seconded by French. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Chairman Merriman next presents the Cass County Trustee Resolution for approval. Wessel moves to approve the resolution and Douglass seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

The Chairman next presents the Cass county 2024-2025 Budget & Levies for approval. A motion to tentatively approve the budget and levies and to be hung in the County Clerk's office for 30 days is made by French 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	Absent	Snellgrove	No		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk declares that all members present have voted in the affirmative except for Snellgrove. The Chairman declares the motion carried.

Chairman Merriman presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Treasurer, Circuit Clerk, Sheriff, and Zoning Officer. A motion to receive the monthly reports is made by Gibson and seconded by Starkey. 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 Noe and seconded by French. 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	Absent	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 7:19 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of November 11, 2024, is made by Wessel and seconded by Gibson. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk