

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

June 12, 2023

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, June 12, 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	Absent	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 except for board member Wessel.

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

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

During public comment Courtney Timmons from Savion spoke about the Cass County Solar Project. Timmons states that construction on the Interconnection Facility will start soon. Road work will be completed in 2023. The solar panels will arrive between November and March 2024 and construction will begin in February 2024. This solar project will generate \$20 million in new property tax revenue and will create 200-300 temporary jobs.

Savion has offered to sponsor a scholarship for Beardstown High School Seniors.

The size of the solar project is 1800 acres and will provide power to 30,000 average sized homes.

Chairman Merriman presents the minutes of the May 8, 2023 Cass County Board meeting. Douglas moves to approve the minutes and French seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Clerk Wessel reads the communications.

Clerk Wessel reminds everyone the Satellite Budget Meeting will be held on June 30th.

A letter of support was sent to the Beardstown Park District for a grant the park district applied for to improve the walking path. Megan Reynolds and Krupa Patel sent thank you cards to the board for the scholarships they received.

Noe, reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on June 8, 2023, and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports the committee met on May 22, 2023.

Roger Lauder submitted an ESDA report.

The committee discussed placing barriers around the Beardstown Waterworks and purchasing a generator for the courthouse.

Snellgrove reports the Animal Control Commission met on May 24, 2023 and approved all bills. Pam Christensen submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately. All euthanization items have been turned over to the Sheriff's office.

Hance reports the Health Department Board met on May 24, 2023. The Health Department in Beardstown has moved into the new facility.

Chairman Merriman reports Cass Rural Water met on May 24, 2023 and appointed new officers. Jeff Cosner was appointed Chairman, Laymon Carter was appointed Vice-Chair, Pam Wessel is the Secretary and Eric Hayes is the Treasurer.

French, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessment Committee, reports the committee met on May 15, 2023. The tax extensions have been calculated by Clerk Wessel's office and the tax bills have been mailed. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Douglass reports for the Policy and Procedures Committee. The committee met on May 22nd and discussed the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. The PTO policy will be reviewed again once the policy language is provided by OKGC Law, LLC.

Douglass reports that the Road and Bridge Committee met on June 5, 2023, and approved all bills.

Devron Ohrn, Cass County Death Examiner, reports that he needs a transport vehicle. Ohrn states he would like to spend around \$10,000 to \$12,000 on a van. Cass County has a cooler and the cots, but Ohrn has had to rely on DM Transport in Jacksonville for transporting and sometimes he has to wait for hours. Chairman Merriman takes a straw poll for the purchase of the van. Chairman Merriman will approve the purchase with the support of all board members.

E-9-1-1 met on May 22nd and approved all bills.

Noe reports that OEDC met on May 25, 2023.

Ruppel reports the Mental Health 708 board will meet on June 28, 2023.

Starkey reporting for OEDC Tourism states that she is still working with Chris Yost on the drone project. A Social Media Manager will be needed once the photo/video pages are uploaded on social media. The cost of a Social Media Manager is \$900 a month.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Housing

Transit

MCS

Legislative

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Insurance & Bonds

Cooperative Extension

TIF

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Chairman Merriman presents appointments to the Mental Health 708 Board, Meredosia Lake Drainage and Levee District and Hager Slough Special Drainage District. A motion to approve the appointments is made by French and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

The Clerk presents the Amended RHSP Resolution. A motion to approve the Amended RHSP Resolution is made by Hance and Gibson seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

A motion to table Item C until the July board meeting is made by Snellgrove and seconded by Douglass. The attorney needs to provide clarification and additional language prior to the boards approval. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the Liquor License for Stop Light liquors in Beardstown. A motion to approve the license is made by French and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The Chairman next presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Zoning Officer and Maintenance. A motion to receive the monthly reports, is made by Douglass and seconded by Noe. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The Clerk next presents the semi-annual reports for the County Clerk, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, and Treasurer. A motion to receive the reports is made by French and seconded by Ruppel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Semi-Annual Reports)

The Clerk next presents the inventories for the Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, County Board Office, Treasurer, Judge, Sheriff, ESDA, Supervisor of Assessments, E-9-1-1, Probation, Highway Department, Animal Control, States Attorney and Law Library. A motion to receive the inventories is made by French and seconded by Hance. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Inventories)

The approval of claims is next presented to the board. A motion to approve the claims is made by Douglass and seconded by French. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk call roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Absent	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 7:58 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of July 10, 2023, is made by French and seconded by Snellgrove. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk