

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2021

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, January 11, 2021 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael Barnett
Chairman

Attest: Jeannie Harris
Chief Deputy Clerk

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

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Barnett | Present | Hance | Present | Noe | Present |
| Gibson | Present | Hagloch | Present | Starkey | Present |
| Schaefer | Present | Douglass | Present | Merriman | Present |
| Wessel | Present | French | Present | | |

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

Chairman Barnett declares there is a quorum.

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

The Chairman states the Resolution of Recognition of Alec Bunfill has been postponed until the February 9, 2021 Cass County Board Meeting.

Chairman Barnett states Teresa Armstrong could not attend the meeting tonight to provide an update on Covid-19 because her husband is having surgery tomorrow.

Barnett states there have been 15 new cases of Covid-19 since Friday. Cass County's overall case count is 1726. The active

case count is 95. The total number recovered is 1601 and the county has had 30 deaths. Two people remain hospitalized.

Barnett states Armstrong has reported that Cass County has received an additional 100 doses of the vaccine, and there are now 180 doses on hand. Group 1A will continue being vaccinated this week and Group 1B vaccinations will begin next week.

There is no Public Comment.

The Chairman next presents the minutes of the December 14, 2020 County Board meeting for approval. Douglass makes a motion to approve the minutes and Hance seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Under correspondence, Harris states a refund check in the amount of \$150.00 was received from UCCI for the 2020 dues.

The Chairman next calls for reports from the standing committees.

Noe, Chairman of the Courthouse Jail Committee, reports the Committee met on January 7th and approved all bills as presented. Noe also states the committee voted to approve an increase of \$3000 to the Public Defender's stipend.

Hagloch, Chairman of the Road & Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on January 4th and approved all bills.

Merriman, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reports that the committee met on December 28, 2020.

Merriman states Animal Control met on December 17th.

Merriman reports that the Supervisor of Assessment Committee met on December 21, 2020. Merriman states that Terri Cooper, Supervisor of Assessments, had Exemption Renewals ready to be mailed on January 5, 2020. Merriman also states that over 12,000 parcels were assessed and only 40 complaints were received. The

Board of Review will begin reviewing those complaints this week.

The next meeting will be held January 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Barnett states he received a phone call from J.T. Hopkins, JBS Plant Manager. Hopkins stated that JBS will be filing a property tax appeal. Hopkins stated that it was a corporate decision, not a local decision.

Barnett states Terri Cooper, Supervisor of Assessments, has been notified of JBS's intent to file the appeal.

The Chairman complimented Terri Cooper for her assistance to Teresa Armstrong, Health Department Administrator. Cooper provided a list of names, phone numbers and mailing labels for Cass County citizens over the age of 65, so those individuals can be notified when the vaccine becomes available to them.

Charles Hagloch reports the Renovation Committee met on January 7, 2021 and discussed the courthouse electrical project. Tim Icenogle, Highway Engineer, is preparing the paperwork for a grant to assist with the funding. Barnett states that Senator Jil Tracy awarded Cass County a grant months ago and those funds will be used for the electrical project.

Hagloch also states there was water damage to the State's Attorney's office. A bid in the amount of \$20,700 was accepted to repair the damages. The Renovation Committee has received a bid addendum for additional painting costs in the amount of \$780.00.

Possible asbestos was found while removing the old carpet in the States Attorneys office. Eighteen samples were taken and analyzed by Hinds Environmental, Inc. and it was determined that asbestos is present in the tiles and the tar paper below the carpet. Hagloch estimated the cost of the remediation to be \$15,000. The Renovation Committee has recommended the approval of \$20,000.00 for remediation of the asbestos. The Renovation Committee will seek board of approval once bids are received.

Hagloch states it will be about a week following the remediation before the States Attorney can be moved back into his office.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Housing

Health Department

Finance and Judiciary

Legislative

Insurance and Bonds

Liquor Control

Policies and Procedures

Cass Rural Water

Arenzville Rural Water

Coop Ext

OEDC

OEDC Tourism

Beardstown TIF

Mental Health

MCS

E-9-1-1

The Chairman now moves to New Business:

The Chairman presents the Hutchison Engineering Various Services Contract and the Artisan Consulting Engineers LLC Various Services Contract to the Board for approval. Merriman makes a motion to approve the contracts and Schaeffer seconds the motion. Chairman Barnett directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| Barnett | Yes | Hance | Yes | Noe | Yes |
| Gibson | Yes | Hagloch | Yes | Starkey | Yes |
| Schaefer | Yes | Douglass | Yes | Merriman | Yes |
| Wessel | Yes | French | 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.

(See attached Contracts)

The Chairman next presents a Budget Transfer Resolution to the Board. Schaefer makes a motion to approve the Resolution and Gibson seconds the motion. Chairman Barnett directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| Barnett | Yes | Hance | Yes | Noe | Yes |
| Gibson | Yes | Hagloch | Yes | Starkey | Yes |
| Schaefer | Yes | Douglass | Yes | Merriman | Yes |
| Wessel | Yes | French | 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.

(See attached Resolution)

The Chairman now moves to Other New Business.

The Chairman states he intended to present a Resolution of Opposition to House Bill 163/House Bill 3563, however, he was informed by counsel that to meet the Open Meetings Act requirements, he would have had to send out a notice announcing the approval of the resolution 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Barnett states that the House Bill includes changes to Law Enforcement. He states that Sheriff Ohrn is strongly opposed to the House Bill. If Bill 163/3563 passes it could be very costly to the county if the Tort Liability Coverage is removed.

Merriman next encourages all board members to attend the Supervisor of Assessments meeting on January 19, 2021, to participate in the discussion of the property tax appeal expected from JBS.

The Clerk next presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Death Examiner and Zoning Officer. Starkey makes a motion to receive the monthly reports and French 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 Hagloch. Chairman Barnett directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|
| Barnett | Yes | Hance | Yes | Noe | Yes |
| Gibson | Yes | Hagloch | Yes | Starkey | Yes |
| Schaefer | Yes | Douglass | Yes | Merriman | Yes |
| Wessel | Yes | French | 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 7:37 p.m., a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of February 8, 2021 is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel

Clerk