

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

June 14, 2021

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael Barnett
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel
Cass County 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	Absent
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 except for Noe.

Chairman Barnett declares there is a quorum.

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

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator of the Cass County Health Department, next presents an update on the latest information related to the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic. Armstrong states that things are going well. There were 3 cases reported last week. Pop up clinics are being conducted in Arenzville, Chandlerville, Ashland, and Beardstown and they seem to be the most successful. We are now in Phase 5 so there are no restrictions on gatherings. Almost 40% of Cass County residents have been fully vaccinated.

Chairman Barnett thanks Teresa for the great job she and her staff continue to do.

Brad Parlier, Cass County Circuit Clerk, next gives a presentation on Closed Case File Scanning Solutions for the Circuit Clerk's office. Parlier has chosen Exela Technologies to scan all closed case files from 1964 to 2015 and convert them into electronic files. The paper files will then be destroyed which will help with storage issues.

Chairman Barnett opens the floor up for public comment.

Dave Ballance would like the board to know that he sent a letter to the Executive Director of the Cass County Housing Authority, Mr. Steve Horton, back in May to address some concerns he has with the Ashland Housing Facility. Balance claims Mr. Horton will not communicate with Mr. Ballance.

Mr. Ballance claims that a mentally handicapped female smokes in her apartment and there is a no smoking policy at the in the housing facility. Ballance also claims there is black mold in two of the apartments, and algae is growing on the outside of the building.

Ballance states that a white supremacist group held a rally at the courthouse on May 22nd, and Balance claims that 3 individuals had open alcohol. Mr. Ballance states that he reported this to the Cass County Sheriff's Office, but no one responded to his claim.

Chairman Barnett thanks Ballance for bringing these issues to the board. Barnett asks Mr. Ballance if he has attended any of the Cass County Housing Authority meetings because he feels like that would be a better place for Ballance to voice his housing concerns.

Ballance states that he wants the full board to be aware of his concerns.

Chairman Barnett next presents the minutes of the Cass County Board Meeting held on May 10, 2021. Merriman makes a motion to approve the minutes and Douglass seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Barnett reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on June 10, 2021, and approved all bills as presented.

Brad Parlier, Cass County Circuit Clerk, gave a short presentation on document storage for his office. The cost to complete the project will come out of the Circuit Clerk Doc Storage Fund.

Chairman Barnett suggests changing the time of the Courthouse and Jail Committee meeting so that all committee members can be present. After a short discussion it is decided that the new meeting time will be 5:00 p.m. starting in July.

Chairman Barnett asked Ott Wulf how often he checks the courthouse fire escape. Wulf stated that he checks it twice a week and that it does need to be painted. Ott received a proposal from Richard Graham Painting in the amount of \$5800 for the fire escape and \$1450 for the two downspouts near the fire escape. The board discussed having all of the downspouts painted if needed. A motion to approve the proposal from Richard Graham Painting and also to approve the cost of painting any additional downspouts is made by Schaefer and seconded by Hance.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Absent
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 that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

Chairman Barnett reports that Reg Ankrom attended the Courthouse and Jail Committee meeting to present the New Electric Service Agreement for Cass County. The Agreement is with Illinois Power Marketing D/B/A Homefield Energy. The KWH rate is \$0.04946 which is less than the Ameren rate of \$0.05260. A motion to approve the Agreement with Illinois Power Marketing D/B/A Homefield Energy is made by Gibson and seconded by Wessel.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Absent
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 that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

(See Attached)

Merriman, reporting for the Road and Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on Thursday May 6, 2021 and approved all bills.

Merriman, Chairman of the Animal Control Commission, reports the commission met on May 27, 2021, but did not have a quorum.

Gibson, reporting for the Health Board, reports the board reviewed policies and procedures. The Health Department is looking to purchase additional space in Beardstown.

Hance reports the Housing Authority is discussing the removal of Garnier Building B. The Housing Authority can accept offers on the building, but if sold the building has to be removed from that property.

Chairman Barnett reports that the Extension of TIF 1 has passed the House and Senate. Barnett will be attending a meeting on June 16, 2021, with 15 community leaders to discuss a housing plan.

Starkey reports she attended a Transit meeting on June 10, 2021. Starkey reports that Transit has received appropriations that will help keep them going for the next couple of years. Contracts with Pathway and Our Savior/Routt are in the works and they are hoping to get a contract with Beardstown CUSD #15. There are 4 part-time openings for drivers. The search for a new Executive Director to replace Jean Jumper following her retirement in a couple of years is still ongoing. The plan is to hire an assistance to work with Jean for at least a year prior to Jean leaving.

Chairman Barnett reports that Stoplight Liquors license will expire June 30, 2021. A motion to renew the liquor license for Stoplight Liquors is made by Merriman and seconded by Wessel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Merriman, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessments Committee, reports the committee met on May 17, 2021.

Terri and her staff are working on the quad year assessments. Philadelphia, Sangamon Valley and Virginia will be reassessed this year. The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Schaefer reports that Arenzville Rural Water met and they are moving forward with the next phase. All but 2 property owners signed up at Tyhurst Farm. Their annual meeting will be held Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at Virginia City Hall.

Schaefer reports that his term on the Cooperative Extension Board will expire following the next quarterly meeting and Cass Wessel will be replacing Schaefer on the Cooperative Extension Board.

Schaefer, reporting for the Mental Health board, reports a meeting was held with concerned citizens on May 26, 2021 about the DT Program. Schaefer states that the DT Program is going to be reinstated following recertification.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Cass Rural Water

Legislative

Economic Development

Policies and Procedures

Insurance and Bonds

MCS

OEDC Tourism

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Chairman Barnett presents the Appointments of the Mental Health 708 Board and the Ashland Fire Protection District.

A motion to approve the appointments is made by Douglass and seconded by Wessel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Chairman Barnett states that Scott Boston will be appointed by the Morgan County Commissioners as their representative of the fire district.

Tyler Lathom states that a meeting will be held on June 16, 2021, and the fire district board members terms of office will be determined by lottery at that meeting.

Chairman Barnett recommends the appointment of Tim Icenogle to OEDC. Tim will be replacing board member Kim Hance who now attends the meetings on behalf of Tim Harris, Mayor of Beardstown. A motion to approve the appointment is made by Schaefer and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The "Amended" Levies are presented for approval. A motion to approve the "Amended" Levies is made by Merriman and seconded by French. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Barnett next recognizes the graduating seniors that were awarded the Cass County Board Citizen-Scholar Award. A Letter of Recognition signed by all board members will be sent to each winner with the scholarship paperwork.

(See Attached Letter)

Barnett reports that the Eastern Cass County Ambulance Fund ended the year with a \$173,275 net profit. Barnett states that the ambulance service has been a very successful venture for the county. Chairman Barnett and Mayor Tim Harris will meet to see if the city wants to continue or if they to assume and merge into their own service.

A Resolution for Reapportionment of Cass County for the Election of the County Board and Establishing Compensation for the Board Members and Board Chairman is presented for approval. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Merriman and seconded by Douglass.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Absent
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 that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Barnett declares the motion carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

A Resolution Establishing Compensation and Disbursement Practices for Certain Elected Officials for is presented for approval. The compensation is set for the Cass County Officials to be elected at the November 8, 2022 General Election for the years December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2026. A motion to approve the resolution is made by Douglass and seconded by Merriman.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Merriman	Yes
Gibson	Yes	Hagloch	Yes	Noe	Absent
Schaefer	Yes	Douglass	Yes	Starkey	Yes
Wessel	Yes	French	Yes		

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

(See Attached Resolution)

The Clerk presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Zoning Officer, Death Examiner and Maintenance and the Semi-Annual reports of the Sheriff, County Clerk, Treasurer and Circuit Clerk, and the Inventories of all Cass County Officers. A motion to receive the monthly reports, semi-annual reports and all inventories is made by Wessel and seconded by Starkey. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Semi Annual Reports and Inventories)

The approval of claims is next presented to the board. A motion to approve the claims is made by Hagloch and seconded by French.

The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Barnett	Yes	Hance	Yes	Noe	Absent
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 that 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 8:00 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of July 12, 2021 is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.



Shelly Wessel, Clerk