

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2023

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, May 8, 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	Present	Douglass	Present
French	Present	Starkey	Present	Noe	Present
Hance	Present	Schultz	Present	Gibson	Present
Ruppel	Present	Snellgrove	Absent		

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

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

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

Chairman Merriman next presents the minutes of the April 10, 2023 Cass County Board meeting. Wessel moves to approve the minutes and Starkey seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Clerk Wessel reads communications.

A Thank you card was received from the Village of Chandlerville for the boards financial assistance with the new levee pump.

Joe Degroot submitted a letter of resignation.

Noe, reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on May 4, 2023, and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass, Chairman of the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee, reports the committee met on April 24, 2023.

Roger Lauder submitted an ESDA report.

On April 27, 2023 two representatives from IEMA met with the Mayors and Town Officials to identify and rank their concerns regarding hazards/disasters in each of their communities.

Douglass reporting for Animal Control reports that 14 dogs were picked up, 3 was returned to their owners, 6 were adopted, and 5 were euthanized.

Gibson reports the Health Department Board met on April 26, 2023 at the Beardstown City Hall. The board members took a tour of the new Health Department in Beardstown.

Gibson reports the Hospice Program is in desperate need of volunteers.

The next Public Safety, Environment and Housing meeting will be held on May 24, 2023.

French, Chairman of the Supervisor of Assessment Committee, reports the committee met on April 11, 2023. An agreement has been reached with Caraustar Industries on their assessment.

Wessel, Chairman of the Road and Bridge Committee, reports the committee met on May 1, 2023, and approved all bills.

Chairman Merriman reports Cass Rural Water is meeting tonight and will be appointing officers.

Noe reports that OEDC met on April 27, 2023. The manager of Site M is off for a while and Nick Norton has been appointed temporary manager.

The Marina in Beardstown is now open for camping. Chris Yost is conducting a drone fly over to be used for tourism.

Christine from LLCC reported that they have signed a 1-year lease for their building.

The Putt Putt Golf event that was held in Virginia raised over \$10,000 and all proceeds went to the Virginia Community Daycare Center.

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

Starkey reporting for Tourism reports that Chris Yost is doing the drone fly over in Cass County. The cost of the flyover is \$500 for half a day and \$1,000 for a full day. The Tourism Committee is looking into hiring someone for editing services.

There are no reports from the following committees:

Housing

Transit

E-9-1-1

MCS

Legislative

Policies and Procedures

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

Insurance & Bonds

Cooperative Extension

TIF

Board Member Snellgrove arrives at 7:15 p.m.

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

Chairman Merriman presents Appointments to the Board of Review, Cass Co. Board of Review Advisory Board, County Farmland Committee for Assessment Review, Beardstown Rural Fire, Cass County E-9-1-1 and Cass County Housing Authority. A motion to receive the appointments is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

The next item on the agenda is for approval to change the name of Gurney Road to Gurnsey Road. The road is located within Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Park and there are no homes on the road, so no address changes will be required. A motion to approve changing the name of the road is made by Douglass and Snellgrove seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the Adjusted Levies for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024. A motion to approve the Adjusted Levies is made by Gibson 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	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

(See Attached Adjusted Levies)

County Highway Engineer Tim Icenogle presents Contract MFT Bonds for approval. The bonds are for the county and various townships Gibson moves to approve the Contract MFT Bonds and Wessel seconds the motion.

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	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

(See Attached Contract Bonds)

Icenogle next presents an Aide to Bridge Project for Sangamon Valley Township in the amount of \$10,000. Schultz moves to approve the Aide to Bridge Project and Wessel seconds the motion.

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	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

(See Attached)

Chairman Merriman presents a request for Authorization to sign the previously accepted electric bid. Douglass moves to approve signing the bid and French seconds the motion.

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	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

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

(See Attached Signed Bid)

Tim Icenogle reports a solar farm meeting was held this past week with Savion. The project could start by the middle of June with the panels going up after the crops are out. This project will produce 250-300 temporary jobs.

County Treasurer Travis Cox reports that Clerk Wessel has finished the tax extension process and he has sent the tax bills to the printer. The projected first installment due date is June 30, 2023.

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 Gibson and seconded by Noe. 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 Hance. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk call roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Yes	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 7:33 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of June 12, 2023, is made by Gibson and seconded by Schultz. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk