

# **MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD MEETING**

## **November 9, 2023**

The Marshall County Board met for the November Board meeting on November 9, 2023; at 8:37 A.M. Chairperson Gauwitz called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call shows: Gauwitz, Vice-Chairperson McGlasson, Stash, McLaughlin, Minnick, Balensiefen, Meierkord, Lueders, Durham and Fecht present.

Lindstrom was absent.

A moment of silence was held for previous county board member Mike Durham who passed away.

It was moved by Balensiefen and seconded by Perona to **approve** the October 12, 2023; minutes as presented. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent.

No Health Department update was given.

Director Erin Orwig from the Illinois Extension Office was present. She stated they hired an AG Educator and a Snap Educator. They are going to be putting out quarterly newsletters so there is better communication. They are going to be updating the computer lab at the Henry School and they are hoping to hold some community classes.

### **Zoning**

**#23-128** It was moved by Stash and seconded by Balensiefen to **approve** the re-appointment of Kyle Schumacher to the Zoning Board of Appeals as chairman for a 5-year term.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

**#23-129** It was moved by Durham and seconded by Lueders to **approve** the re-appointment of Chuck Volker to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5-year term.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

**#23-130** It was moved by Stash and seconded by Perona to **approve** Special Use permit #23-262 Rustic Charm Barn Event and Services.  
Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Gordon Simonton from Solar Stone was present. Solar Stone is a company from Minnesota, and he is one of four partners. They started the company in 2014. They currently have 16 projects, 14 of them being in Minnesota and 2 in Illinois. They have 17 more projects lined up in Illinois. The panels are 10-12 feet high. The panels are bifacial meaning they tilt from side to side with the sun and are a single axle tracker. These projects must be in Ameren territory with three phase power lines. It also must have a utility substation within a general distance of 5 miles and absorb solar energy. There are no batteries connected to these solar panels. The property lease is 35 years with an additional 10 years available. There is inverter equipment located at the end of the rows. These are all American made products which qualify for more grant funding for the landowner. They do not run at night. They will have a crew that comes in and does maintenance.

Ralph Gilles, Dan Navin, Joe and Erica Feazel who are neighbors to where the project will be built were present and expressed their concerns. They expressed to the board that they are worried about noise, eye sore, issues with water drainage and water main failure. They also stated they are worried about being able to sell their homes in the future. Who will want to move next to a solar farm and what it will do to their assessments? They also wanted to know what it would do to State Street with trucks and equipment entering and exiting. They also stated that planting certain trees won't help.

**#23-131** It was moved by Stash and seconded by Vice-Chairperson McGlasson to **approve** with the additional language provision added to the resolution as follows:

1. A road use agreement will be established with the Village of Washburn; and
2. Vegetative screening will be utilized to minimize visual impact to adjacent property owners; and
3. A variance to extend the timeline of commencement in and Ag District to 36 months, with an option to extend by the Zoning Administrator; and
4. Approval by the Zoning Administrator that all provisions have been met.

Vote shows: 8 ayes, 3 opposed (Durham, Minnick and Lueders), 1 absent.

A list of building permits was given to each member.

Assistant County Engineer Catherine Terando gave an update on the Highway. The maintainers are continuing to mow and prep equipment for the winter. Foreman Louie Grimes resigned to pursue other opportunities, and Daniel Scoon is the new Foreman. They are looking to hire a person to operate the maintainer. The concrete floor has been poured for the new building.

**#23-132** It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Minnick to **approve** the appointment of Catherine Terando as Acting Engineer.

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Chairperson Gauwitz wanted to thank Pat Sloan for his 30 years of service and hoped he has a good retirement! Sloan stated that he will be around to answer any questions that may arise.

**#23-133** It was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Meierkord to **approve** the Engineering Services Agreement with WHKS & Co. for Phase II engineering on the Stagecoach Road Bridge Replacement, Section 23-09120-00 BR with an amount of \$100,250.22.

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

**Recycling Update:** A recycling event was held on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> in Toluca. They collected 300 items and 62% being from Marshall County and 38% being from Putnam County. One Putnam County Board Member was present to help with this event.

#### **New Business:**

**#23-134** It was moved by Durham and seconded by Minnick to **approve** State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor resolution.

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

**#23-135** It was moved by Perona and seconded by Balensiefen to **approve** Trustee Tax Resolution 05-12-379-005 (Hopewell Township).

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

**#23-136** It was moved by Meierkord and seconded by Durham to **approve** the bid from Kreiling Roofing in the amount of \$12,769 to replace the rubber roofing on the flat roof of the Courthouse.

Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

It was moved by Minnick and seconded by McLaughlin to **approve the payment of bills.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Animal Control:** Minnick stated they have 1 dog.

**Building & Grounds:** Meierkord reported the rubber seal has been fixed on the door in the courtroom.

**Coroner/Sheriff:** Minnick reported they have hired a new deputy and a part time dispatcher.

**COVID 19:** Nothing to report.

**EMA:** Stash reported they had a meeting and Rich is attending training webinars and all reports have been updated. The next meeting won't be until January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Finance/Budget:** Nothing to report.

**County Highway & Recycling:** Nothing to report.

**Human Resources & IT:** Nothing to report.

**Insurance:** McLaughlin reported he is waiting to get copies of policies from Wilson Insurance.

**Lower & Upper Offices:** Meierkord reported he met with Circuit Clerk Gina Noe on upgrading the County website and internet. They will be talking to a few vendors for quotes. She is applying for a grant. On the grant she is also applying to get a digital sign in the front of the courthouse.

**Public Transportation:** Lueders reported everything is running well and are happy the bridge is open.

**Airport:** Gauwitz reported the project is completed by the newest hangers.

**Comm. Mental Health:** Lueders reported they will be having a meeting.

**ETSB:** McLaughlin reported Mike has replaced a few cameras; radio system updates have been completed. The next meeting is November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

**Health Dept.:** Nothing to report.

**Human Services Transportation Comm.:** Lueders reported they have a meeting Tuesday.

**M-P Extension:** Nothing to report.

**ROE:** Nothing to report.

**Tri-County Opportunities:** Balensiefen reported the next meeting is November 28<sup>th</sup>. They are working with people to sign up for LiHeap (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program).

**Upper IL River Valley Development Authority:** Meierkord reported the next meeting will be on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Zoning & Land Use:** Nothing to report.

**Correspondence:**

Chairperson Gauwitz reported that the Henry Ambulance sent a thank you card for the donation of the ARPA funds.

Gary Kroeschen also sent a thank you card for the party and gift card.

At 10:25 A.M. it was moved by McLaughlin and seconded by Lueders **to adjourn** the meeting.

**12/14/23** It was moved by Balensiefen and seconded by Minnick to approve the 11/9/23 **minutes as presented**. Vote shows: all ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. Motion carried.