

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2013

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The County Board of Ford County met pursuant to adjournment in the Ford County Board Room of the Ford County Jail in Paxton on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman, Rick Bowen.

B. ROLL CALL:

The roll call showed the following board members in attendance: Bob Lindgren, Pat Haskins, Jason Johnson, Randy Ferguson, Dave Hastings, Tom McQuinn, Gene May, Randy Berger, Floyd Otto, Tim Nuss, Elynor Stagen and Chairman Bowen.

C. PROCLAMATION:

Sheriff Doran

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION:

Floyd Otto

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Haskins moved that the December 10, 2012 board minutes be approved. Mr. Berger seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

F. COMMUNICATIONS:

G. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

H. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Otto moved to accept the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Coroner, Supervisor of Assessments, Sheriff, EMA, and Highway and to place them on file. Mr. Hastings seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

I. REPORT OF PROBATION OFFICER:

Cassy Taylor was not in attendance.

J. REPORT OF CIRCUIT CLERK:

Mrs. Evans said that they had a jury trial today. The next jury trial is next week with a visiting judge. She informed the board that they are succeeding in collecting back fees. Collections are doing much better.

K. REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Treasurer Hastings presented her report. The total cash on hand is \$629,036.37.

Mr. Berger moved to approve the Probation, Circuit Clerk and Treasurers monthly reports and to place them on file. Mr. Otto seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

L. OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPARTMENT HEADS TO ADDRESS BOARD:

Candy Short, Assessment officer, informed the board that the Senior Citizen's Assessment Freeze Exemption forms have not been received from the state. So, the forms will be sent out to the people as soon as the assessment office receives them.

M. CHAIRMAN REPORT:

N. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Environment

Mr. Berger said he will be attending a meeting in regard to the aquifer.

2. Finance

Mrs. Stagen moved to **approve payment of the General Fund bills.**

Mr. Berger seconded it.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mrs. Stagen moved to **adopt Resolution 13-07 (Authorizing County Clerk to hire new deputy clerk).** Mr. Johnson seconded it.

Roll Call - Unanimous

3. Highway

Mr. Otto moved to **approve payment of the Highway bills.** Mr. Lindgren seconded the motion

Roll Call – 11 yeas; 1 abstention

(Mr. May abstained)

Mr. Otto moved to **approve the Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement (Button Bridge Replacement).** Mr. Lindgren seconded it.

Roll Call – Unanimous

4. Insurance/Personnel

5. Overview/Legislation

The old jail building was then discussed.

Mr. Royce Baier, representing the Paxton Foundation, expressed his feelings in regard to preserving the old jail and residence. He explained some of the unique parts and structures of the building, such as the Athens Marble which is prominent in only 5 structures in Illinois. Only the Ford County jail remains with little alteration. The building also meets the National Register Eligibility.

Mr. Baier reported on the Foundation's mission statement and listed the different projects that their association has successfully completed.

Other than the fact that it is old and in fairly good condition, Paxton Foundation would like it to be saved and they would like to work out an agreement with Ford County to purchase the complex and to pay for all the costs involved to save and maintain it. He said that they understand that the renovation could be quite complex. They hope to implement a 5 or 10 year plan to get the project completed. The Foundation would like to locate their office and headquarters in this complex.

Chairman Bowen asked the foundation to provide the county with a written proposal of their intentions and to have it in the County Clerk's office by February 1. An Overview Meeting, with all board members invited, will then be scheduled to review the proposal.

Mr. Baier asked the board members to feel free to fax him at 217-379-9025 or e-mail him at mbaier@illicom.net with their comments and suggestions.

Mr. Howard Haley also spoke. He thought that the Paxton Foundation's proposal was a good idea. He was not in favor of Ford County spending any money on the building.

6. Sheriff

Mrs. Haskins moved to **approve payment of the Sheriff, County Housing, EMA**

& Coroner bills. Mr. Lindgren seconded the motion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

7. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Berger moved that the written and verbal reports of the committees be accepted as presented and placed on file. Mr. Otto seconded the motion. Voice Vote - Carried

O. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS:

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| 1. Mobile Region 8
Training has been set for the 2013 year | Doran/Lindgren |
| 2. Union Affairs
Going into Mediation between the County and the FOP Union | Haskins/Bowen/Stagen |
| 3. Eastern Illinois Economic Development Authority | Stagen/Berger |
| 4. 708 Board | Mr. Berger |
| 5. WIA | Bowen/Hastings |
| 6. Ford-Iroquois Board of Health
Mr. Bowen is to meet with Iroquois County to discuss some issues | Mrs. Stagen |
| 7. Regional Office of Education | Bowen/Stagen |
| 8. Community Economic Development Foundation
They are starting dis-banning procedures | Mr. Ferguson |
| 9. 9-1-1
Paid bills and talked about general radio training procedures | Mr. Johnson |
| 10. Zoning | Mr. Johnson |
| 11. CIRMA
Mr. Nuss was asked if he would be on this and attend the meetings. He said he would. | Bowen/Nuss/ McQuinn |
| 12. Extension | Johnson/Hastings |
| 13. E.M.A. | Mr. Higgins |

P. OLD BUSINESS:

Q. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Nuss informed the board that all the people that he has talked to in his district, are not in favor of Ford County spending any money on the old jail building and residence.

R. NEW BUSINESS:

S. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

T. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Otto moved to adjourn; Mr. Berger seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 8:35 P.M.

U. PROCLAMATION

Sheriff Doran

The next monthly meeting will be Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Kellerhals
County Clerk

Approved: _____