

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Bob Lott, Allan Anderson, Ed Whitcomb and Troy Cummings were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Martha Gum, State’s Attorney Gabe Grosboll, and County Coordinator Dara Worthington were also present. County Treasurer Pam Bauser was absent. This meeting convened under Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-07 as it relates to the Open Meetings Act as a result of COVID-19.

Chairperson Bob Lott called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the May 12, 2020 regular Board Meeting, and the monthly department expense report for April 2020. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Eric Golden, Road District #9 Commissioner, was in attendance and updated the Board on planned projects he will be working on within that road district. Golden also reported on what has been accomplished in the time he has been in office.

President of the Menard County Board of Health Dave Bagot, along with Board of Health member, JD Stewart, were in attendance. President Bagot addressed the commissioners regarding a document their board would like to have mailed along with the commissioner’s letter to the Governor. Their document covers values and recommendations from Menard County to initiate a reopening plan sooner rather than later. They requested County Board approval and signatures. The Board of Health document will be endorsed by the Dave Bagot, Gail O’Neil, Jeff Fore, Bill Dart and the physicians overseeing the Boards of Health for Sangamon and Menard Counties. It was the consensus of the board to move forward with the request from the Board of Health.

Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Worthington presented grant funding information in Kathy Ruppel’s absence. Ms. Ruppel relayed that the funding that was being made available would not be something that Menard County could utilize due to the size of our county and the guidelines set forth within the grant application. These funds seem designed to benefit larger, more affluent counties. Commissioner Whitcomb informed the Board he had received one phone call for a resume submission for the Highway Engineer position.

Sheriff's Department Report/Requests for Board Action

County Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance and updated the Board on the current census at the jail. He also informed the Board the courthouse will be re-opening up to the public with full staffing on June 1, 2020.

County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Coordinator presented information in Pam Bauser's absence. She presented monthly financial reports for review along with the end of year adjustments and stated the tax bills should have been mailed out.

County Clerk's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Clerk Martha Gum was in attendance and updated the Board on the sliver of land that has been surveyed. A discussion ensued regarding the three nearby owners and how to proceed.

State's Attorney Report/Requests for Board Action

State's Attorney Gabe Grosboll provided an overview of activities and issues related to his office. He stated he is still busy with an increase in domestic cases as well as abuse and neglect of children cases. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Sunny Acres Personnel Policy being within the County's policy or through Heritage, more specifically the use of reserve sick time policy. Commissioner Cummings voiced his concerns with this policy. State's Attorney Grosboll suggested we form a committee to determine a solution.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Worthington presented May Health Department bills for overview and payment approval. Commissioner Fore moved to approve the bills. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Coordinator Worthington received information from Circuit Clerk Penny Hoke, regarding the new public defender. An order from the Eight Judicial Circuit was entered naming Steven Courtney as the new Public Defender for Menard County, effective March 30, 2020. She also discussed items such as looking for a committee member for the Menard County Housing Authority Board, UCCI information regarding the Age of COVID-19, the status of a FOIA request, and an update to the Beacon project.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Anderson inquired about Vote By Mail ballots for the upcoming November election. County Clerk Gum stated she has been discussing this with other clerks in her zone, and they have not budgeted for an all Vote By Mail election. As of today, no bill has been passed.

Commissioner Fore received a call inquiring about rock hauling for the road districts. A brief discussion ensued with relating to the amount of rock purchased and the bidding process. It was determined that clarification can be obtained through the Highway Department.

Executive Session

Commissioner Cummings moved to enter into executive session to discuss issues as allowed by (5 ILCS 120/2(C)(2) at 7:11 p.m. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Fore moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.