# Pike County Board

# Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2021

1. Call to order

Chairman Jim Sheppard called to order the regular meeting of the Pike County Board at 7:00 p.m. in the upper courtroom of the Pike County Courthouse.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Michael Boren gave the invocation and Chairman Sheppard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Roll Call

Chairman Sheppard asked Deputy Clerk Haley Rezba to call roll. Board members present were, Chairman Sheppard, John Birch, Amy Gates, Reta Hoskin, Derek Ross, Mark Sprague. Absent were board members Tom Lewis and Mark Mountain.

1. Approval of Minutes from Pike County Board meeting on November 22nd, 2021

John Birch made a motion to approve the minutes. Mark Sprague seconded. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Pike County Board meeting on November 29th, 2021

Mark Sprague made a motion to approve the minutes. John Birch seconded. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Appointment of County Board Member Andy Borrowman

Mark Sprague made the motion to approve the appointment. Amy Gates seconded. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Election to fill vacancy

Amy Gates nominates Andy Borrowman to fill the vacancy. Motion to approve made by Amy Gates. Seconded by John Birch. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Gene Webel

Motion to approve made by Amy Gates. Seconded by John Birch. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. National Opioid Settlement

Motion to approve made by Reta Hoskin. Seconded by Andy Borrowman. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Appellate Prosecutor

Motion to approve made by Mark Sprague. Seconded by John Birch. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Committee Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 5:30pm December 15, 2021. Members in attendance were Amy Gates, Reta Hoskin and Mark Sprague. Also present were Board Chairman Jim Sheppard, County Treasurer Scott Syrcle and Brenda Despain from the Highway Department.

Mark made a motion to pay $160,590.54 in bills from the General Funds. Amy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Under old business, the Committee reviewed on-going problems with payroll processing and implementation of the PayCom system. It appears unlikely at this point that the implementation of the time and attendance portion of the PayCom system by January 1, 2022, as approved at the last finance meeting, will occur since training for the departments has not yet been scheduled. After discussion, the County Clerk and/or State’s Attorney will be asked for a copy of any PayCom agreements and contracts. It is expected that reports prepared for the beginning of the new audit on January 10, 2022, will assist in resolving issues.

Also, under old business, it was noted that the issues with the 2020 Social Security earnings report have been resolved. Employees should now be able to see their 2020 earnings reflected on the Social Security Administration’s website.

Under new business, Scott Syrcle raised the issue of what the County’s policy will be for carrying over vacation days for employees in those departments no longer covered by the previous union contract. This discussion will be continued at the January metting.

Amy made the motion to adjourn, Mark seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Motion to approve made by Amy Gates. Seconded by Andy Borrowman. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

Highway

The Road and Bridge Committee met Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the County Highway Department. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were John Birch, Reta Hoskin, Mark Sprague and Jim Sheppard. Staff members were Gary Laux and Brenda Despain.

Public Comment: Brenda Despain presented a list of highway department payroll issues since July 1st. She wanted to make the committee aware of the issues and suggested that the highway department go back to doing their own payroll or for the County to go back to using CIC for payroll.

It was also confirmed that December 27th is a Court holiday and that the full board meeting will be moved to December 20th.

Payment of Claims: A motion was made by Reta Hoskin, seconded by John Birch to pay claims per claim reports dated December 15, 2021. All in favor. Motion carried.

Half Aid to Bridge Settlements: None

2022 Half Aide to Bridge Petitions: A motion was made by Reta Hoskin, seconded by Mark Sprague to approve 14 Half Aide to Bridge Petitions from various townships for the year 2022 totaling $160,000.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Six Month’s Report: A motions was made by Reta Hoskin, seconded by Mark Sprague to approve the Highway Department six month’s report from June 1 through November 30, 2021 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

2022 Highway Committee Calendar: A motion was made Mark Sprague, seconded by Reta Hoskin to approve the 2022 Highway Committee Calendar as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

County Engineer’s Report- MFT Letting – The 2022 MFT Letting will be held on December 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the highway department.

New Facilities – The survey for the new facility has been completed.

Old Business: None

Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 ( c ) ( 5 ) and 5 ILCS/2 ( c ) (1): The committee did not go into closed session.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mark Sprague, seconded by Reta Hoskin to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve made by Andy Borrowman. Seconded by Reta Hoskin. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

Building and Grounds

The December meeting of the Pike Co Board Building and Grounds committee was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by chairman Mark Sprague.

Members also present were Tom Lewis, Mark Mountain and Jim Sheppard.

Bills in the amount of $6,435.78 were approved on a motion by Mountain and a second by Lewis.

The committee discussed the courthouse work, the Cintas contract, and the phone in the General Assistance office. Apparently, when it rings, the phone doesn’t work, so we are looking into a fix.

No other action was taken by the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m. on a motion by Tom Lewis and seconded by Mark Mountain.

Motion to approve made by John Birch. Seconded by Andy Borrowman. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

GIS/IT

The GIS/IT Committee was called to order at 5:47PM on December 14th, 2021. Those in attendance were committee members Derek Ross, Amy Gates and Jim Sheppard. Also in attendance were Brenda Despain and Dan Brennecke.

Under new business:

Brenda Despain gave us an update and three-year summary of the GFI expenses. It is apparent that the majority of the expense is from monthly obligations and not expenses incurred from time spend correcting issues.

Under old business:

Dave Hochgraber from Adams County IT last notified us that he was waiting for the Adams County State’s attorney to review a proposal and then it would be sent over for consideration.

Public Comments: None

Motion to pay bills in the amount of $11,708.07 was made by Amy Gates and seconded by Derek Ross. The motion passed.

Amy Gates made a motion and seconded by Derek Ross to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Motion to approve made by Amy Gates. Seconded by Mark Sprague. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at the Pike County Ambulance Building. Members present were Tom Lewis, Amy Gates, Derek Ross and Chairman Jim Sheppard. Also present were employees of the Pike County Ambulance Service and Lexi Damon from Illini hospital.

Ambulance Administrators Report:

Kasey stated that there were 191 calls for service for the month of November. Which 42 of those were transfer. Kasey stated that they have started to se more Covid cases in the last month and expect to see more in the month of December. The second Life Pak 15 that was ordered has arrived and is in service. The new ambulance that was ordered is being delayed due to not being able to get chassis. Kasey is working with GIS on the mapping for the ambulance to use when responding to calls. Kasey talked about a meeting he had recently attended in Quincy. The meeting was to discuss how to help retain employees in the EMS field and how to the vaccine mandate has and will affect staffing. The IDPH was trying to get ideas on what can be done to keep EMS services up and going if the mandate goes through. A lot of the ideas that have come down from the State are not good for any EMS service in the State. Kasey will keep the Committee aware of any issues that arise.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: Lexi Damon from Illini Hospital stated that the hospital is busy and that she appreciates the help that the ambulance service gives them when they need it. Lexi also attended the same meeting that Kasey had attended and things are not looking good even for them if the vaccine mandate goes through.

Bills:

Bills in the amount of $14,185.55 for the 2021 fiscal year was approved by a motion by Amy Gates and seconded by Derek Ross. A second motion to pay bills in the amount $40,039.28 for the 2022 fiscal year by Amy Gates and seconded by Derek Ross. Motion approved.

A motion to go into closed session was made by Amy Gates and seconded by Derek Ross pursuant to 5ilcs120/2/c/1 personnel motion passed at 7:28pm.

At 7:40pm the committee returned to open meeting with no action to be taken from the closed session.

At 7:42pm a motion to adjourn was made by Amy gates and seconded by Derek Ross. Motion carried.

Motion to approve made by John Birch. Seconded by Amy Gates. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

AG

The December meeting of the Agriculture Committee of the Pike County Board was called to order at 2:06 pm by Chair Mark Sprague.

Members also present were Mark Mountain, John Birch and Jim Sheppard.

McKenzie reported on the state of the animal shelter. The shelter has been overcrowded as of late but will be back to manageable occupancy soon as many of the dogs and cats are going to a Springfield rescue operation. The costs have been extra high recently due to several different diseases and the resulting veterinary bills. The Gray Trust ( an important patron of the shelter), along with Max Mittendorf has contacted McKenzie and staff recently. They are working together on a plan to be funded by the Trust for upgraded to the facility to improve both functionality and appearance. McKenzie also reported on the increased cost and function of the Rabies Tags. The new tags have a QR code which will identify the animal and owner.

On a motion by Mark Mountain and second by John Birch, the committee approved raising the fee for the annual Rabies Tag from $8 to $10.

The committee discussed with Nicole from the Assessor’s office the potential need to try to initiate a program to vastly reduce the number of tax parcels in the county by combining adjacent parcels within the same section. There are currently over 21,000 parcels and growing. The goal is to reduce these by as many as possible in order to save time and money at the Assessor’s Office, the Treasurer’s Office, for the township and multi-township assessors and for the county’s property owners. Based on anecdotal evidence, it is felt the total number could be reduced by 25% or more. No action was taken, but consensus was this issue needs further consideration in order to form a plan moving forward. Nicole will discuss this with County Assessor Cindy Shaw and report back to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:51pm on a motion by Mark Mountain and second by John Birch.

Motion to approve made by Andy Borrowman. Seconded by John Birch. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. New Business

Andy Borrowman is taking over Rodger Hannel’s committees

1. Old Business

Chairman Sheppard was reached out to by McWarders Cemetery on ownership. Still working on it.

1. Chairman’s Remarks

Merry Christmas everyone

1. Summary of Expenses for the Month/Mileage & Per Diem Report

Motion to approve made by Amy Gates. Seconded by John Birch. Voice vote 5-0. Motion approved.

1. Questions from Press and Visitors

Jim Filbert- Merry Christmas to everyone. Also thinks that the brick in the courtroom is inappropriate for a courthouse. It shouldn’t look like a Pub in the courtroom. Wants to see the courtroom covered back in plaster.

Mike Boren – Wants to know if they are doing light wood or dark wood. Does not like the light wood and wants to see the money spent on the ceiling outside of the courtroom. Thinks the old style needs to stay and does not want to see the exposed brick.

Amy Gate – Wants to know what the plan for the courtroom is. What is it going to look like.

Reta Hoskin – Wants to know if the historic preservation people are involved.

1. Adjournment

Amy Gates made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Birch. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Haley Rezba.



