

**LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2022**

The Lawrence County Board met in regular session at the Lawrence County Courthouse in Lawrenceville. Board Chairman Jim Brewer called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Pastor Roy Abbott of Island Free Methodist Church gave an opening word of prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Roll call was ordered with the following board members present: Tom Robinson (District 1), David Burgett (District 2), Jordan Feutz (District 3), Board Chairman Jim Brewer (District 5), Grant McDonald (District 6), Mark Jones (District 7). Absent from the meeting: Judy Phipps (District 4).

County officials present: County Clerk Will C. Gibson.

A motion was made by Tom Robinson to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2022 county board meeting. Mark Jones seconded the motion with approval by all, motion carried.

Tom Robinson made a motion for the approval of highway claims in the amount of \$468,673.38. David Burgett seconded the motion with approval by all on a roll call vote.

Tom Robinson made a motion for the approval of purchases and claims in the amount of \$698,919.95. David Burgett seconded the motion with approval by all on a roll call vote.

Chairman Brewer asked the board to approve Resolution 2022-20, to make the county public defender a full-time position with a salary to be established at a rate of 90% of that of the state's attorney. The chairman explained that this was initiated by House Bill 1095 that requires a public defender to be available essentially at all times during the course of a work week. It was further noted that the salary will be reimbursed by the State of Illinois at a rate of 66.66 percent. Chairman Brewer added that the county's current public defender, Daniel Shinkle, is agreeable and has been retained to continue in this capacity. A motion was made by Tom Robinson to approve the resolution as presented. Jordan Feutz seconded the motion with approval by all on a roll call vote.

Chairman Brewer mentioned to the board the need to take the time to review a draft of an ordinance that was made available at the November county board meeting concerning the handling and management of solid waste. The chairman stated that the ordinance will be on the agenda for further consideration at the January county board meeting.

Chairman Brewer formally announced the meeting dates and times for the county board for 2023 will continue being held on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm.

Mark Jones made a motion for the approval of the monthly department reports and to have them placed on file with the county clerk. Jordan Feutz seconded the motion with approval by all, motion carried.

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County Clerk Will C. Gibson presented Resolution 2022-21 for the approval of a title transfer on properties that the county trustee had taken ownership of due to delinquent taxes. The clerk explained that bids have been accepted and that an approval of transfer of ownership will allow them to be cleaned up and improved. Tom Robinson made a motion to approve the resolution. Grant McDonald seconded the motion with approval by all on a roll call vote.

Residents of Kirkwood Addition, represented by Linda Collier and John Crites, addressed the board concerning the lot in the subdivision that the county deeded to Ambraw Asphalt. Ms. Collier reiterated an argument that had been made by her and other residents over the last several county board meetings in stating that the lot in question is designated as a public park and by right cannot and should not have been conveyed to the asphalt company or anyone else. Chairman Brewer repeated the county's position on the matter, explaining that a title search was done by a local title company. The title search did not uncover anything to indicate any person or persons having ownership of the lot. Ms. Collier repeated the residents claim that their abstract of deeds contain information that the lot is established as a public park that belongs to the property owners of Kirkwood Addition. Chairman Brewer commented that he has asked on multiple occasions to have an abstract brought into the county clerk's office that lists such verbiage, and to date, nothing has been presented to back up this claim. Ms. Collier expressed that the residents are reaching a point whereby they're going to have to look to retain legal counsel to take up their cause. At this point, Chairman Brewer advised Ms. Collier that since it has been officially noted that the residents are looking to pursue their cause through litigation, the county will not make further comment nor discuss the matter any longer.

Chairman Brewer announced that the courthouse will be closed on Monday, December 26th for Christmas, and on Monday, January 2nd in observation of New Year's Day. The chairman added that the courthouse will also be closed on Monday, January 16th in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Chairman Brewer announced that the next county board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at 4:00pm.

On a motion by Tom Robinson, seconded by David Burgett, the meeting was adjourned.