

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 S. Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Bob Lott, Jeff Fore, Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, and Rich Brauer were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Martha Gum, County Treasurer Pam Bauser, State’s Attorney Gabe Grosboll, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, and Sheriff Mark Oller were also present.

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

Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes from the February 22, 2022 regular board meeting. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearing of Citizens (Public Comments/Requests for Board Action)

Jason Weller, Menard County Farm Bureau Manager and Steve Holliday, Menard County Farm Bureau President were both in attendance to introduce themselves. Mr. Holliday communicated that the Farm Bureau wants to be closely involved with projects within the county that affect agriculture.

Dr. Joe Bilyeu, Jake Stewart, Neil Gurnsey and Chase Sanert were to request ARPA funding for Jaycee Park playground project proposed by the Town and Country Women’s Club.

Highway Department Report/Requests for Board Action

Corey Dowd, County Highway Engineer, was in attendance and presented two items for Board approval.

Approval of Preliminary Engineering Agreement for Structure on TR 164 (Engel St) over Grove Creek with Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Concurrence of Awards on the 2022 Motor Fuel Tax Material Letting for Menard County Highway Department and Menard County Road Districts on Roadway Oil and Aggregates. Commissioner Whitcomb moved to approve the item. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Department Report/Requests for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance and updated the Board with the current jail census at eighteen, noting three out of County holds. Commissioner Whitcomb thanked Sheriff Oller on behalf of Road District #10, in regards to the road grader they purchased from the Sheriff's Department.

County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Treasurer Pam Bauser was in attendance and updated the Board on her office activities. She also presented monthly financial reports for review, and a State Reimbursement form for the Assessor's salary. She also informed the Board that resolutions for setting the elected official's salaries must include state statutes and state stipend information.

County Clerk's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Clerk Martha Gum was in attendance and updated the Board on the current General Primary Election filings along with a mass mailing her office is working on for permanent Vote by Mail applications.

State's Attorney Report/Requests for Board Action

State's Attorney Gabe Grosboll was in attendance and updated the Board on the uptick in mental health issues within the County. He stated they are planning a psychiatric training for some County employees and local law enforcement.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance and requested that Executive Session minutes from 8/13/19, 8/11/20 and 2/23/21 remain closed. Commissioner Fore moved to approve the request. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. She also requested Executive Session minutes from 6/19/12, 1/28/14, 4/08/14, 4/29/14, and 1/30/18 be opened. Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the request. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Coordinator Worthington also updated the Board on activities within her office, that included: no news from EPA regarding Sunny Acres Lagoon, Worker's Comp audit and Senior Transportation compliance review both coming up, and the EMS financials for review.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Ed Whitcomb presented pricing information for two new lawn mowers, including a trade-in, for Sunny Acres. He received a bid from Rohlf's Implement. A brief discussion ensued.

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Menard County 911 Emergency Telephone System Board for use of ARPA funds. Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Purchase of Mower for Sunny Acres Nursing Home. Commissioner Fore moved to approve the purchase. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

State's Attorney Grosboll that the ARPA committee had met and reviewed information presented by municipalities. Grosboll reported that it was the consensus of that committee that ARPA funds need to be distributed by December 31, 2023. State's Attorney Grosboll discussed setting a deadline for submitting applications. A brief discussion ensued and it was decided there will be a 90-day deadline for receiving the applications.

Chief Deputy Sheriff, Ben Hollis questioned using ARPA funds for purchasing radios for the Sheriff's Department.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Executive Session

Commissioner Cummings moved to enter into executive session as allowed by (5 ILCS 120/2)(C)(1) at 6:12 p.m. Commissioner Fore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.