

Sharon K. Williams, District 1
Junior Watkins, District 2
Barry Robinson, District 3
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4
Rachael Parker, District 5
G. Allen Mayer, District 6
James C. Dillon, District 7
Phillip Salzer, District 8
Kathrin Pastucha, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson
R. Steve Sonnemaker, County Clerk

Robert Reneau, District 10
Gregory Adamson, District 11
Rachel Reliford, District 12
James T. Fennell, District 13
Brian Elsasser, District 14
Steven Rieker, District 15
Matthew Windish, District 16
Jennifer Allison, District 17
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 11, 2019
6:00 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602
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**CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK**

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Members Adamson, Dillon, Elsasser, Fennell, Mayer, Pastucha, Rand, Reliford, Reneau, Rieker, Robinson, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Watkins, Williams, and Windish, with Member Parker absent.

Chairman Rand announced that the Consent Agenda would be taken before the proclamations. For those items, please see below.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of March 14, 2019 County Board Meeting Minutes

Member Mayer moved for approval of the minutes, Member Fennell seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 16 ayes.

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A Proclamation recognizing May 5-11, 2019 as “National Correctional Officers Recognition Week”
- A Proclamation recognizing May 12-18, 2019 as “National Police Week”
- A Proclamation recognizing Maloof Realty on their 50th anniversary as a Peoria County business.
- A Proclamation recognizing April 2019 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and promoting the effort of the 12th annual Hands-Around-the-Courtyard event

III. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Byron Joos addressed the Board regarding autonomous vehicles. He expressed that the deal may not be a grand slam as it is thought because of deals like the Hotel Pere Marquette.

Dave Sutherland, Village Trustee, Village of Princeville, addressed the Board regarding Item 2. He described that the school system brings people to the town, but if the hog farm is allowed, life will



change and not for the better. He believed that the water supply could be affected by the hog farm and the Board members should ask themselves if they would like to live within a mile of a hog farm. He urged the board to support the resolution.

Ruth Coats addressed the Board regarding Item 2. She described that her family has farmed and she has a deep-rooted love for agriculture. She detailed that farmers are intelligent, progressive, and innovative; raising families in a true quality of life, but social media has publicly shamed them for being viable in today's world. She informed the Board about the size of an acre and the amount farmland lost to urban sprawl in Illinois and the U.S. over the last 62 years. She urged the Board not to pass the resolution because the current structure is working.

Cheryl Walsh addressed the Board regarding Item 2. She noted that she is a fourth-generation farmer in Princeville. She thanked the Board for educating itself about the Livestock Management Facilities Act. She conveyed that producers have many regulations to follow and adding more will cost them money. She informed that farmers make 52% less than they did three years ago, but they do it because it is what they love. She suggested that the Farm Bureau can give real answers to questions and not what is found on Google.

Matt Price addressed the Board regarding Item 2. He detailed that a community does not have any say about any facility if the public is not notified. He urged the Board to approve the resolution to give a venue to express the citizen's concerns.

Pam Price addressed the Board regarding Item 2. She described and read from a petition and expressed that people came from all areas of Peoria County to sign it, stating that they would like to be heard about hog facilities.

Tom Webber, Chippewa Estates Homeowners Association, addressed the Board regarding Item 2. He reported that the community is just outside of Princeville and it would urge the Board to support the resolution because an amendment could give more control to the local community. He expressed that the community supports agriculture in all forms, but it must be done responsibly.

Joyce Blumenshine, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, addressed the Board regarding Item 2. She urged the Board to support the original resolution because it contained protections of water resources. She believed that all four points from the original resolution are well thought out and should be supported.

Emily Prewitt addressed the Board regarding Item 3. She remarked that she is angry about the County Auditor's budget because it does not allow the Auditor to fulfill her duties. She explained that she voted for Jessica Thomas because she wanted her to carry out the duties and because she will be uncooperative if prevented from carrying those out. She contended that the Board intends to cripple the Auditor from making sure the Board is responsible. She discussed that Auditor Jessica Thomas has been forthright with her intention and requested that the Board fully fund the office.

Doug Johnson addressed the Board regarding Item 3. He highlighted his support for Auditor Jessica Thomas and the work that went into winning the office. He contended that she is the most qualified person to hold the position for as long as he has been alive. He remarked that the Auditor's office should be fully funded and the Board should be held accountable. He urged the Board to prove that it is honest and transparent.

Jane Tyler addressed the Board regarding Item 3. He expressed a hopefulness in Peoria and that



Jessica Thomas is trying to do her job. He identified that she is the first black woman to hold the office and that should not be overlooked. He perceived that she has the odds stacked against her and that the Board should work together to give her a chance.

Anthony Walraven addressed the Board regarding Item 3. He observed that the Board has done a good job to balance the budget and eliminating an elected position can be a way to save money. He contended that the citizens voted to keep an elected Auditor. He noted that Jessica Thomas should be held up as an example because she is from the community and tries to serve it. He brought up that the amount of money for the Auditor is lower than any downstate county. He asserted that having a lower budget for the office than Tazewell County cannot be understood. He believed that the reason the State Constitution chose to have the Auditor position elected was to make that person directly answerable to the people. He reported that the Attorney General has given the opinion that the position cannot be eliminated. He urged the Board to work with the Auditor and come to an agreement.

Jessica Thomas, Peoria County Auditor, addressed the Board regarding Item 3. She described that her office has been defunded to a historic level. She said the last time the office was funded at the current level was in 1919. She asserted that the operating budget was cut from \$34,000 in 2016 to \$375 in 2019 and that she does have internal auditing experience. She informed that she is willing to perform the duties of the job according to the law. She emphasized that she is fighting hard for the people of Peoria County to get financial transparency. She mentioned that in 2008 the Finance department was created, which shifted duties from the Auditor, and that the Board is not willing to give funding for them. She expressed that a legal opinion states that a County Board cannot eliminate an office by not funding it. She urged the Board to vote on the resolution, and stated it is not sufficient for the office.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA (including reports to be filed)

- C1.** The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of February 2019 and Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of January 2019.
- C2.** The Auditor's report of expenditures from Accounts Payable system is accessible at www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency.
- C3.** A resolution (items 1 – 4 conveyances; item 5 – surrender) from the Ways and Means Committee recommending that the County Board Chairman be authorized and directed to execute deeds of said property to the highest bidder, and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from April 11, 2019 and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.
- C4.** A resolution from your Executive Committee recommending approval of an Agreement between the County of Peoria and Minority Business Development Center in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 annually for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020.
- C5.** A resolution from your Budget Committee recommending approval of an appropriation in the 2019 budget of 2018 encumbrance rollovers and rollover appropriations in the amount of \$732,478.00



- C6.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of the FY 2019 State's Attorney's appellate Prosecutor Agreement.
- C7.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of an additional appropriation in the amount of \$85,500.00 into the FY 2019 budget for the purchase of vehicles and other related capital equipment.
- C8.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of Police and Dispatch Service Contracts for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022.
- Dedicated Police Services
Village of Princeville \$516,900.00; City of West Peoria Bike Patrol \$1,151,220.00; Township of Medina \$775,620.00; Village of Bellevue \$516,900.00
 - Random Police Services
Village of Dunlap \$82,320.00; Village of Hanna City \$274,680.00
 - Dispatch Services
Village of Glasford \$13,560.00; City of Elmwood \$24,720.00
- C9.** A joint resolution from your County Operations Committee and your Budget Committee recommending approval of an additional appropriation into the FY 2019 budget in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the purchase of IT server hardware and software for the upgrade of the Odyssey Criminal Justice System.
- C10.** A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval of revisions to the County of Peoria Drug Testing Policy.
- C11.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a Cooperative Research Agreement between the County of Peoria and Bradley University for the purpose of maintaining the Pavement Management Program.
- C12.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of an appropriation from the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund in the amount of \$800,000.00 and an appropriation from the County Bridge Fund in the amount of \$640,000.00 for the construction of Dirksen Parkway.
- C13.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a Construction Engineering Agreement with Hutchison Engineering, Inc., Peoria, IL, for the Dirksen parkway Reconstruction Project, at a cost not to exceed \$150,873.42.
- C14.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of an appropriation from the County Motor Fuel Tax Fund in the amount of \$150,873.42 for construction engineering services for the Dirksen Parkway Reconstruction Project.
- C15.** Chairman Appointments.

Member Mayer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Rosenbohm seconded. Member Mayer asked to pull all Chairman's Appointments related to Jennifer Allison; Member Adamson asked to pull Item C7. The Consent Agenda, except for appointments related to Jennifer Allison and Item C7,



was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 16 ayes.

C15. Chairman Appointments related to Jennifer Allison

Member Mayer moved to approve Item C15 related to the appointments of Jennifer Allison and Member Fennell seconded. Chairman Rand thanked the applicants and Members Dillon and Fennell for helping in the interview process. He detailed the process of replacing a member of the Board. Item C15 related to the appointments of Jennifer Allison, was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 16 ayes.

County Clerk Steve Sonnemaker administered the oath of office and Member Allison thanked all and said she is excited to join the Board. She explained that she was on the Board of Health for the last six years and she is excited to continue to see Peoria grow.

C7. A resolution recommending approval of an additional appropriation for the purchase of vehicles and other related capital equipment.

Member Parker entered the meeting.

Member Rosenbohm moved to approve Item C7 and Member Mayer seconded. Member Adamson asked about the reason for the fund transfer and Mr. Sorrel reported that the funds are to come from the General Fund and used to purchase vehicles for related departments. Member Elsasser asked about the specific vehicles to be purchased and Mr. Sorrel detailed that the purchase is for probation vehicles and a rolling replacement of an assistant coroner vehicle. Item C7 was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

- 1.** A resolution from your Executive Committee recommending approval of a Forgivable Loan Agreement with Alignment Peoria in the amount of \$75,000.00, to be appropriated from the fund balance of the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Fund.

Member Dillon moved to approve the resolution and Member Mayer seconded. Member Rieker remarked that the program has a great purpose, but he will be voting no because the County Board does not have the position to hand out money to non-profit organizations. He expressed that if the Board gave money to one organization, it could not hold it from another. Member Adamson detailed that government money should not go to non-profit agencies, but the program is laudable, and it can be helped by private giving. Member Reliford explained that precedence is set by giving the loan when several other organizations could also use the Board's support and that she will be voting no.

Member Pastucha highlighted that the program gives a leg up and that it is an economic tool. She suggested that it could be the best \$75,000 spent this year and it is in line with what the Sheriff's Office is doing to keep kids out of jail. She discussed the need to get a job force to attract jobs and the program would help. Member Dillon emphasized that the program is economic development and that the Board should invest in Peoria Public Schools.

Alignment Peoria Director Marcia Bold addressed the Board regarding the Align Peoria program. She expressed gratitude for the consideration and said it is a small investment when compared to the return, with 168 partnering organizations helping it be effective. She explained that the program uses metrics and structure to help in new ways. She urged the Board to approve the loan because it is



convening communities together to solve very complex issues. She reported that the program has been able to bring together non-profits, businesses, and faith-based groups to support 13,000 students. Member Dillon remarked that the model could also help other school districts and it has 110% of his support. Member Fennell brought up that Peoria has been ranked poorly for minorities, which is bad for economic development, and this program could help increase graduation rates and help attract business. Chairman Rand conveyed that the funding has been drying up near the end of their current funding cycle. He reported that the program has taken students from Manual, placed them in internships, and paid them for their work. He believed that the program has a small budget, but it helps to change the outcomes in the community.

The resolution was approved by a roll call vote of 12 ayes and 6 nays, with Members Adamson, Elsasser, Reliford, Rieker, Rosenbohm, and Windish voting nay.

2. A resolution from your Ways and Means Committee recommending approval of a Legislative Proposal to amend the Livestock Management Facilities Act (510 ILCS 77).

Member Mayer moved to approve the resolution and Member Fennell Seconded. Member Dillon moved to amend the resolution by substitution and Member Rieker seconded. Member Dillon informed that the amended resolution requests notification about a facility as well as creating a setback of 1.5 miles for a jurisdiction's zoning; which is agreeable for all sides. He explained that the Board is not changing any law by passing a resolution because a change discussion would only be had in Springfield. He reported that it might not be a perfect resolution for either side, but it comes to a passable agreement. He urged a vote in favor of the resolution.

Member Rieker highlighted that the Board will not be voting on the facility near Princeville, but it does represent the concerns of the people. He summarized that there is a need to hear from both sides because the facilities are much different and better than they were in the past. Member Rosenbohm explained that the resolution is a compromise and he supports it. Member Pastucha expressed that she has family that farms, she supports it, and the resolution requests changes to the law. She thanked all for their comments and the Board Members for compromising. Member Windish emphasized that the resolution is a compromise and that it addresses problems. Member Elsasser reported that he and fellow farmers support the setback and it makes for being a good neighbor. He mentioned that the best possible chance of change by the legislature will be the 1.5-mile buffer because there would still be about 500 square miles of open land in Peoria County.

Member Adamson asked about no inclusion of animal units to notify the County in the resolution and Members Dillon, Rieker, and Mayer explained that the request for notification would include any facility application to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Chairman Rand highlighted that the County Board does not underappreciate the importance of agriculture and read from a report of the Illinois Department of Agriculture regarding the economic value of agriculture-related activity. He noted that he would like to have greater oversight of these activities.

The motion to amend by substitution passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Mayer voting nay.

The resolution as amended was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

3. A resolution from your Ways and Means Committee recommending approval of an additional appropriation to the FY 2019 budget in the amount of \$68,500.00 for the office of the Peoria County Auditor.



Member Mayer moved to approve the resolution and Member Parker seconded. Member Mayer detailed that the budget process is difficult because there are a number of demands; each department could use more money to perform their work, but the Board has the power of the purse and it has only a limited amount that it can raise. He explained that the Auditor position is important, the voters chose to keep the office, the new Auditor has made a case, but the Board is against the limits for property taxes. He presented the budgets of the downstate Auditors' offices, noted that the resolution would bring the office near the average, and the total budget would be beyond what it was in previous years; allowing for 3 FTEs. He noted that one request raised the budget further and nearly twice that of the surrounding counties. He described that the committee decided to start by adding 1 FTE and then added additional funds for operations. He urged an aye vote.

Member Adamson discussed that the Auditor should be independent of the Board and act as a stop-gap for malfeasance. He asserted that Jessica Thomas is very smart and knows what she is doing. He remarked that the Board could get more information about what Auditor Thomas needs to get the job done and that he would be voting against the resolution so there is more thought given to it.

Member Parker expressed that the Elected Officials and Employees will work with Auditor Thomas to do what she was elected to do. Member Pastucha described that in government no one gets what they want, the cost of the office should not be more than the benefits of the office, the resolution gets the office to where it needs to be, and she is open to hearing more from Auditor Thomas in the future. Member Adamson summarized that the spend granted to Align Peoria is not State mandated like Auditor's office. Member Mayer explained that all bills must be approved through the Auditor, she has access to the financial system, and the Board has not cut off access. Member Reneau believed that pushing the resolution back to committee would keep her from hiring someone.

The resolution was approved by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Adamson voting nay.

4. A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a proposal from Midwest Engineering Associates, Inc., Peoria, IL, for engineering services related to the air handling unit controls system upgrade at the Peoria County Jail, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00. *(Pending Committee Approval)*

Member Salzer moved to approve the resolution and Member Robinson seconded. Member Salzer informed that due to the age of the jail, the air handlers need to be replaced. Member Pastucha brought up that the project will be applying for rebates from Ameren for the energy saved with the new system. The resolution was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 18 ayes.

5. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

Chairman Rand announced he would take Miscellaneous and Announcements before the Board went into Executive Session. For those items, see below.

Member Fennell moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and Member Reneau seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Peoria County Board Minutes
Thursday, April 11, 2019**

Member Robinson invited all to attend a fundraiser for Bethel Baptist on June 15th and noted that he has tickets available.

Member Williams announced that on Wednesday, May 22nd at the Eagle's Club on East Lane in Peoria a meeting is to be held with Sheriff Asbell regarding concerns in the area, and on Saturday, May 11th a recycling fair will be held at Kuusakoski Recycling.

Member Rosenbohm thanked all for the work in installing traffic lights on Cameron Lane and Route 24.

Member Dillon recognized Member Windish for taking him to see a hog farm and welcomed Member Allison to the Board.

Member Salzer asked all to plan on attending a cleanup event on Mossville Road in June. He detailed a meeting he attended about a State capital budget bill. He explained that the legislators expect localities to figure out the funding.

Member Dillon reported that the solar lottery was held, the projects in Hallock Township on Lakeshore Drive and Hollis Township near Route 24 were approved, and the other projects were waitlisted for an undetermined future lottery.

Member Fennell noted that the last of the three properties near the river have been demolished and look very nice.

Member Rieker informed that during the legislative subcommittee it was made clear that projects will not be awarded without a diversity plan in place.

Member Elsasser left the meeting.

Member Mayer noted that the County has adopted model plans regarding diversity for the Museum and Heddington Oaks.

Mr. Sorrel detailed a handout that Chairman Rand had requested that showed the employee count, revenue, and expenditure differences from 2008 through 2018. He explained that there has been a significant decrease in staffing as well as lower revenues and expenditures between the years.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman announced the meeting was adjourned.