

Sharon K. Williams, District 1  
Junior Watkins, District 2  
Betty Duncan, District 3  
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4  
Brandy Bryant, District 5  
Eden S. Blair, District 6  
James C. Dillon, District 7  
Phillip Salzer, District 8  
Kathrin Pastucha, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson  
Rachael Parker - County Clerk

Robert Reneau, District 10  
Linda Daley, District 11  
Rachel Reliford, District 12  
Vice-Chairperson-James T. Fennell, District 13  
Brian Elsasser, District 14  
Steven Rieker, District 15  
Matthew Windish, District 16  
Jennifer Groves Allison, District 17  
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

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**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 9, 2021  
6:00 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602  
Voice: (309) 672-6056 • Fax: (309) 672-6054 • TDD: (309) 672-6073  
[www.peoriacounty.org](http://www.peoriacounty.org)

**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 Blair, Daley, Dillon, Duncan, Elsasser, Fennell, Groves Allison, Pastucha, Rand, Reliford, Reneau, Rieker, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Watkins, Williams, Windish, with Member Bryant absent.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Approval of August 12, 2021 County Board Meeting Minutes

Member Fennell moved for approval of the minutes and Member Groves Allison seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

**II. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A presentation by Trefzger's Bakery

Member Bryant entered the meeting.

Katie Kim, representing The Kim Group, and Jeff Huebner, representing Trefzger's Bakery, addressed the Board. They expressed their appreciation for the loan given to them through the Keystone Funds and conveyed the impact the funds have made.

- A proclamation recognizing the week of September 20-26, 2021 as National Rail Safety Week
- A proclamation recognizing September as National Preparedness Month
- A proclamation recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11, 2001

**III. CITIZENS' REMARKS**

Kiersten Sheets, Peoria County Farm Bureau Board Member, addressed the Board regarding the absence of broadband internet throughout rural Peoria County. Ms. Sheets presented the Board with a petition signed by Peoria County residents. She thanked the Board for the portion of ARPA



funds dedicated to broadband internet infrastructure but encouraged dedicating a more significant amount. She detailed further steps that could be taken to address this issue.

Chairman Rand discussed the ARPA funds as it related to broadband infrastructure. He contended that cable providers do not invest in the areas that are more expensive to serve. He expressed that mobile data could be cheaper and more accessible than broadband.

County Clerk Rachael Parker read the submitted public comment. See attached for the public comment.

Member Daley commented that even though her district is wholly located within the City of Peoria, she recognizes the constituents residing in rural Peoria County who do not have access to internet service. She stressed the importance of this issue. Member Pastucha thanked Ms. Sheets for bringing the issue to the Board's attention.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA (including reports to be filed)**

- C1.** The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of July 2021 and Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the month of June 2021.
- C2.** The Auditor's report of expenditures from Accounts Payable system is accessible at [www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency](http://www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency).
- C3.** A resolution (items 1-7, 9-11 surrenders; 8 reconveyance) 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 September 9, 2021 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 the County Board support in the creation of the Statistical Boundaries of the Illinois Waterway Ports and Terminals.
- C5.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of the SFY 2022 Adult Redeploy Grant Agreement with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in the amount of \$226,281.00.
- C6.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending a transfer of funds in the amount of \$7,000.00 from the County Sheriff Department budget to the Sheriff Merit Commission department budget.
- C7.** A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending settlement authority in an amount not to exceed \$32,520.00 be approved to settle Worker's Compensation Case number 010015-005284-WC-01.
- C8.** A resolution from your County Health Committee recommending approval of the most qualified response of Farnsworth Group, Peoria, IL, for architectural services related to the Health and Human Services Campus project.



**C9.** A resolution from your County Health Committee recommending approval of the most qualified response of River City Construction LLC, East Peoria, IL, for Construction Manager at Risk for preconstruction and construction management services related to the Health and Human Services Campus project.

**C10.** Chairman Appointments.

Member Groves Allison moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Blair seconded. Member Williams asked to pull Items C8 and C9. The Consent Agenda, except for Items C8 and C9, was approved by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

**C8. A resolution recommending approval of the most qualified response of Farnsworth Group, Peoria, IL, for architectural services.**

Member Williams moved to approve Item C8 and Member Blair seconded. Member Williams summarized the interview and scoring process that resulted in selecting Farnsworth Group. Member Elsasser questioned whether the funds would be used for something new or put towards the existing campus. Member Williams explained that the decision has not yet been made regarding remodeling, replacing, or relocating. Member Elsasser questioned River City Construction's role in the project. Member Dillon drew parallels between this process and the process that was previously followed with the Heddington Oaks project. Member Rosenbohm expressed concern for refurbishing the old building. Member Williams reiterated that no decisions have been made yet. Item C8 was approved by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

**C9. A resolution recommending approval of the most qualified response of River City Construction LLC, East Peoria, IL, for Construction Manager at Risk.**

Member Salzer moved to approve Item C9 and Member Blair seconded. Member Williams summarized the interview and scoring process that resulted in selecting River City Construction LLC. Chairman Rand commended Member Williams for her efforts. Member Elsasser stressed that he feels the Board would be better served waiting for a response from Farnsworth Group before proceeding. Member Dillon explained the purpose of hiring River City Construction and that both companies would be working together. Item C9 was approved by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 2 nays, with Members Elsasser and Windish voting nay.

**V. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

- 1.** A resolution from the Chairman of Public Safety and Justice Committee and the County Administrator recommending approval of a FFY21 State Court Improvement Program grant agreement with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in the amount of \$21,000.00, to fund independent contractor attorneys who serve as appointed Guardian ad Litem in juvenile abuse and neglect court. *(Poll Vote per Rules of Order, Article V, Section 18C)*

Member Rosenbohm moved to approve the resolution and Member Duncan seconded. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

- 2.** A resolution from the Chairman of County Operations Committee and the County Administrator recommending approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Peoria County and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (FOP-Corrections unit). *(Poll Vote per Rules of*



*Order, Article V, Section 18C; and pending union ratification)*

Member Reneau moved to approve the resolution and Member Pastucha seconded. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

### **3. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

Member Bryant moved to suspend the rules and Member Reneau seconded. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 17 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

### **4. A Proclamation extending the Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19 in Peoria County, Illinois.**

Member Watkins moved to approve the resolution and Member Reneau seconded. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 15 ayes and 3 nays, with Members Elsasser, Reliford, and Windish voting nay.

## **VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Member Pastucha mentioned the Prairie Folklore Cemetery Tours, which occur during the first two weekends in October in Springdale Cemetery.

County Clerk Rachael Parker recognized County Treasurer Nicole Bjerke for being selected as part of the 25 Women in Leadership.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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



The following public comment was submitted.

## Danielle Fuller

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**From:** Beth Crider <bcrider@peoriaroe.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** CoClerk-Public Email  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comments for Board Meeting 9/9/2021

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I would like to submit electronic comments to the Peoria County Board for the September 9, 2021 meeting.

Dear Peoria County Board:

The Peoria Regional Office of Education has been working with Farm Bureau in recent weeks to survey our rural areas for broadband access in light of the global pandemic. We have a common interest. While access to broadband is good for business and agribusiness, it is also imperative for access to remote or online learning. As we all know, the end of the 2019-2020 school year had each student in Peoria County attempting to learn in some type of online format. ALL digital formats required and continue to require the internet for a high quality public education. School districts throughout Peoria County made attempts to deliver hot spots or paper packets of work to students without access, but it quickly became an equity issue. Very simply, the lack of access to quality, reliable, consistent broadband (wifi) meant some students did not get the same quality of instruction that others received.

The dollars set aside to Peoria County through the federal government's Covid relief funding could be a major asset to right this inequity. When I read the purpose and the intent of what these dollars are for, helping develop the infrastructure for broadband makes complete sense. The global pandemic exposed many critical fissures in public services. This one time lump sum could go a very long way to securing access for all no matter where the resident lives in Peoria County. Additionally, it should be noted that a small investment could pay big dividends with matching funds elsewhere that can be explored.

I am grateful to the Peoria County Farm Bureau for their thoughtful approach to this issue and to include like-minded partners in the effort.

Thank you for your consideration, Beth Crider, Peoria County Regional Superintendent

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*Beth*

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