



**Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Thursday, December 7, 2017
County Board Room – Perry County Government Building**

A regular meeting of the Perry County Board of Commissioners was convened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017 in the County Board Room at the Perry County Government Building in the City of Pinckneyville.

OPENING

County Clerk Josh Gross called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those in attendance.

County Clerk Josh Gross called the roll. The following members answered the call of the roll: Commissioner James Epplin and Commissioner Bobby Kelly. Commissioner Bigham was absent. The following department heads were also present: County Clerk Josh Gross, States Attorney David Searby, Treasurer Mary Jane Craft, Assessor Becky Tract, and Sheriff Steve Bareis.

ELECTION OF COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN FOR 2017

County Clerk Gross called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2018. Commissioner Kelly nominated Commissioner Epplin for Chairman. Chairman Epplin seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner Kelly moved that nominations be closed and Commissioner Epplin be elected as Chairman by acclamation. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and Commissioner Epplin assumed the Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Epplin asked for the minutes of the November 17, 2017 regular Board of Commissioners meeting, be approved. Chairman Epplin called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Kelly moved the minutes of the November 17, 2017 regular Board of Commissioners meeting, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Epplin called for additions or deletions to the meeting agenda. Resolution number 4 for Special Use Permit was removed and Jim Epplin was added to public comments.

Commissioner Kelly moved the agenda for the meeting be approved as amended. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

ORDINANCE – ESTABLISHING 2018 COUNTY HOLIDAYS

County Clerk Gross presented a resolution establishing County Holidays for 2017. Dates when County Government offices shall be closed include: Monday, Jan. 1 (New Year's Day), Monday, Jan. 15 (Martin Luther King Day), Monday, Feb. 12 (Lincoln's Birthday), Monday, Feb. 19 (Presidents' Day), Friday, March 30 (Good Friday), Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day), Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day), Monday, Sep.3 (Labor Day), Monday, Oct. 8 (Columbus Day), Tuesday November 6 (Election Day), Monday, Nov. 12 (Veterans' Day), Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving), Monday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve), Tuesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day), and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2018 (New Year's Day).

Commissioner Kelly moved that Ordinance 2017-06, an ordinance establishing the 2018 County holidays, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 2-0 and the ordinance adopted.

ORDINANCE – ESTABLISHING 2018 COUNTY BOARD MEETING TIMES

County Clerk Gross presented a resolution establishing County Board meeting dates and times. Meetings will continue to be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Meeting dates include: Winter Quarter: Jan. 4, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, and Mar. 15. Spring Quarter: Apr. 5, Apr. 19, May 3, May 17, Jun. 7, and Jun. 21. Summer Quarter: July 5, July 19, Aug. 2, Aug. 16, Sep. 6 and Sep. 20. Fall Quarter: Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 6 and Dec. 20. Meeting times will be held at 2 p.m.

Commissioner Kelly moved that Ordinance 2017-7, an ordinance establishing the 2018 County Board meeting times, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 2-0 and the ordinance adopted.

ORDINANCE – APPROVING 2018 COUNTY PROPERTY TAX LEVY

County Clerk Gross reviewed the proposed 2018 County property tax levy ordinance, as discussed at previous meetings held for budget purposes. Total levy is \$3,674,384. The levy is an approximate 4.9% increase from the previous year and thus a Truth-In-Taxation hearing is not required. There are some increases throughout the budget in an attempt to bring the County back into balance fiscally. These increases paired with appropriate cuts should hopefully get the County back to a balanced budget in future years.

The levy is broken down as follows:

<u>Levy Line Item</u>	<u>2018 Levy</u>	<u>Change+/-</u>
Corporate	\$580,000	\$20,000
IMRF	\$600,000	-\$45,000
Highway	\$194,877	-\$4,906
Bridge	\$99,892	\$2,454
Mental Health	\$223,000	\$0
Tuberculosis	\$10,000	\$0
Federal Aid Highway Match	\$99,892	\$2,454
Highway Rock & Gravel	\$99,892	\$2,454
Tort Judgments & Gen. Liability	\$775,000	\$200,000
Social Security	\$345,000	-\$40,000
General Assistance	\$71,000	\$31,000
Extension Education	\$78,925	\$0
Ambulance	\$300,000	\$0
Health Services	\$154,000	\$0
Senior Adult Services	\$38,000	\$0
Total County Levies	\$3,674,384	\$168,456
Difference	4.9% increase	

Commissioner Kelly moved that Ordinance 2017-08, an ordinance levying property taxes for the County for the 2018 tax year as presented above, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 2-0 and the ordinance adopted.

ORDINANCE – APPROVING 2018 UNIT ROAD DIST. PROPERTY TAX LEVY

County Board reviewed the proposed 2018 Unit Road District property tax levy ordinance, as discussed at previous meetings held for budget purposes. Total levy is \$612,631. The levy is a 5.2% reduction compared to the previous year and thus a Truth-In-Taxation hearing is not required. Tax rates should be stable or slightly lower with minimal assessment value increases. The levy is broken down as follows:

<u>Levy Line Item</u>	<u>2014 Levy</u>	<u>Change +/-</u>
Road and Bridge	\$252,739	\$-40,261
Bridge	\$92,233	\$7,659
Social Security	\$39,000	\$0
Unemployment Insurance	\$4,000	\$0
IMRF	\$46,000	\$0
Tort Judgments & Gen. Liability	\$164,000	\$5,000

Audit	\$7,000	\$0
Total Unit Road District Levies	\$612,631	-\$27,602

Commissioner Kelly moved that Ordinance 2017-09, an ordinance levying property taxes for the Unit Road District for the 2018 tax year, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 2-0 and the ordinance adopted.

RESOLUTION – ACCEPT RESIGNATION FROM TAMAROA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD

Clerk Gross confirmed that the board member for the Tamaroa Cemetery Association Board, Herbert Chapman will be resigning. The Board Thanks Mr. Chapman for his years of service for the local community and wishes him good luck in all his future endeavors.

Commissioner Kelly moved that Resolution 2017-140, resolution approving the resignation of Herbert Chapman from the Tamaroa Cemetery Association Board, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly, and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed on a vote of 2-0 and the resolutions adopted.

RESOLUTION – RATIFY CHAIRMAN’S APPOINTMENT TO TAMAROA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD

Approve Chairman’s appointment to the Tamaroa Cemetery Association Board. This appointment is for a partial term ending January, 31, 2020.

- Lisa Maple

Commissioner Kelly moved that Resolution 2017-141, resolution approving the Chairman’s appointment to the Tamaroa Cemetery Association Board, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Chairman Epplin, and Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed on a vote of 2-0 and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE SALE OF COUNTY OWNED SURPLUS PROPERTIES (11)

The Perry County Agent forwarded resolution to the Board authorizing the sale of trustee-owned surplus properties. The resolution indicates conveyance from the County Agent to the new owners.

- Stephen Castleman (1-41-0050-110)
- Michael Woodside (1-51-0170-160)
- Stephanie Walters (1-51-0300-030)
- Commercial Capital Inc (2-61-0690-111)
- Brian Owings (2-61-1040-060)
- BDK Inc (2-61-1080-200)
- Michael G Miller (2-61-1260-150)
- Robert H Beckley Jr. (2-61-1560-150)
- Jerry D Crum (2-64-0400-171)
- Dwayne Greer (2-64-0410-100)
- David Peters (61-020-09)

Commissioner Kelly moved that Resolution 2017-142-152, resolutions approving the sale of County Trustee owned surplus property be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly, and Chairman Epplin. The motion was approved on a vote of 2-0 and the resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING TAX ANTICIPATION WARRANT

Treasurer Craft addressed the board regarding the need for a tax anticipation warrant for the General Corporate Fund. After soliciting proposals from local banks, it is recommended that the County borrow \$300,000 from Du Quoin State Bank to be repaid at .95% interest. The resolution states that the Treasurer may execute the warrant on or after December 7, 2017.

Commissioner Kelly moved that Resolution 2017-153, a resolution authorizing issuance of a tax anticipation warrant for the General Corporate Fund in the amount of \$300,000 from Du Quoin State Bank, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members

voted aye: Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Epplin. The motion passed by a vote of 2-0 and the resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION – RAFFLE LICENSE APPLICATION

The raffle license application was presented for approval. Application and fees are in order and approval was recommended for application, as follows:

- Du Quoin VFW Post 513 (2017-RL-31)

Commissioner Kelly moved that Resolution 2017-154, resolution approving raffle license application and issuing the license as indicated above, be approved. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Chairman Epplin, and Commissioner Kelly. The motion was passed on a vote of 2-0 and the resolution was adopted.

DISCUSSION

1. **David Houston** – Mr. Houston addressed the board in response to his concerns that were brought up at the previous meeting. He stressed that Clerk Gross interrupted him during his remarks and that Mr. Gross stated that Mr. Houston believes preferential treatment has been shown to other homeowners in Perry County leading them to have lower property tax bills. Mr. Houston states that he has never made those statements at the County Board meeting and that he would not have been allowed to hold those discussions during the board review, since at those hearings the point is to speak about your property and not other properties. He stated that he is not looking for others taxes to be increased but for his to be billed accordingly. He also stated that he would not have even been aware of those properties if they had not been brought to his hearing by the County Assessors Office. Mr. Houston also stated that Clerk Gross stated the board members would be paid if they assumed the roles of Board of Review. He reminds us that the state statute does not allow for them to receive payment for performing that duty. He stated that Clerk Gross's comments are in direct opposition to Commissioner Kelly's comments at previous meetings about not being paid for Board of Review Duties. Mr. Houston's third point is that Clerk Gross again misspoke when he stated that Perry County had more deputies on duty than surrounding counties in the area. He is troubled that an elected official at a board meeting made those comments that he feels to be untrue, and that there is proof that they are not true.
2. **Jim Epplin** – Chairman Epplin wanted to address the Bi-Centennial Celebration and state that he thought it was a fantastic ceremony. He went on to thank Mary Roe and others in attendance who were able to help. He thanked the high School Choir and Kim Kellerman for her words. Commissioner Kelly seconded the comments by Mr. Epplin stating that he was worried turnout was going to be low then in a brief moment he realized the entire room was full and the event went off as a success. He also thanked Mary Roe for her hard work and determination.

COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None was needed.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Board members examined claims presented for payment. The Board agreed to pay all bills as presented.

Commissioner Kelly moved that all claims against the General Corporate Fund and all claims against special purpose funds, be approved (see attached), with General Corporate Fund expenses to be prioritized according to policy. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. Chairman Epplin requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Kelly, and Chairman Epplin. The motion was approved on a vote of 2-0 and payment warrants were granted.

ADJOURNMENT OF FALL QUARTER MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman said he would entertain a motion to adjourn and re-convene the Fall Quarter meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017.

Commissioner Kelly moved the Board adjourn and re-convene the Fall Quarter meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017. Chairman Epplin seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Submitted:

JOSH GROSS, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
County of Perry, State of Illinois
Approved: December 21, 2017