SHELBY COUNTY BOARD MEETING

**September 8, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.**

The Shelby County Board met on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in Courtroom A of the Shelby County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Chairman Bryon Coffman called the meeting to order. Board member Matt Kessler gave the prayer, and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Clerk Jessica Fox called the roll. Hite and Patterson were absent.

Minutes for the August 11, 2022, board meeting were presented for approval. Barr made motion to approve the minutes. Simpson seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Minutes from the September 1, 2022 special board meeting were presented for approval. B. Bennett made motion to approve the minutes. Lenz seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Chairman Coffman called for public body comment.

Several members of the public body voiced concerns about the Standard of Care requirements for Ambulance Services passed by the Board at the August 11, 2022 meeting and encouraged members to vote in favor of rescinding those. Comments were also made about the need for the County Board to approve an operator for the County Farm and not the Farm Committee.

Josh Faivre, CPA from Wipfli presented the 2021 Audit report. All members or the Board were provided with a copy of the Management Letter, the County Audit, Circuit Clerk Audit and the Single Audit. Due to audio difficulties, Orman made motion to table the approval of the audit presentation report. Cox seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 2 no Coffman, Swits).

A salary increase for Circuit Court Clerk Kari Ann Kingston was recommended by the Fees/Salaries committee members. AG opinions were presented to the board stating a mid term increase in the Circuit Court Clerk’s salary is not prohibited. Kingston’s salary effective December 1, 2022 will be $63,330, which is the same salary as the County Clerk/Recorder, Treasurer and Supervisor of Assessments.

B. Bennett made motion to approve the pay increase resolution for the Circuit Court Clerk. Williams seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no).Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, M. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Cox, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Gergeni, Kessler, Lenz, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy, Simpson, Slifer, Swits, Tate and Williams. Nay: none.

At this time, Chairman Coffman called for the County Highway report.

 Road/Bridge Chair Coffman presented the highway report. The following 50/50 petitions from local Highway Commissioners were presented for approval by the board.

A 50/50 petition from the Oconee Township Highway Commissioner to replace a culvert located at 100E/200N, estimated costs of $28,206. Motion by Barr. Seconded by B. Bennett.

50/50 petition from Cold Spring/Oconee Highway Commissioners to replace a culvert at 700N/600E, estimated costs $4,889. Motion by Barr. Seconded by M. Bennett.

50/50 petition from Cold Spring/Oconee Highway Commissioners to replace a culvert at 700N/600E, estimated costs $4,609. Motion by Boehm. Seconded by Barr.

50/50 petition from Big Spring Highway Commissioner to replace a box culvert at 3100E/500N, estimated costs $27,686. Motion by Slifer. Seconded by Ongman.

50/50 petition from Richland Highway Commissioner to replace a box culvert at 2550E/1200N, estimated costs $17,331. Motion by Durbin. Seconded by Lenz.

50/50 petition from Holland/Clarksburg Highway Commissioners to replace a culvert at 1900E/450N, estimated costs $16,229. Motion by Slifer. Seconded by Barr.

Approved the County Clerk sign an agreement between Okaw Township and Gonzalez Companies, LLC for Professional Services for Phase 1 of PE for Grade Crossing Protection, estimated costs $2,000. Motion by B. Bennett. Seconded by Barr.

All of the 50/50 petitions and Okaw Township Agreement passed by roll call votes (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, M. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Cox, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Gergeni, Kessler, Lenz, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy, Simpson, Slifer, Swits, Tate and Williams. Nay: none.

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Coffman stated the Road/Bridge committee had discussed giving County Highway Foreman Stacy Prosser a $6.00 per hour pay increase. Due to their being no County Highway Engineer, Prosser’s workload had increased, and the committee felt he should be making more than the highest paid laborer. There was nothing in writing in the past regarding the pay increase for the Foreman, although in the past a “gentleman’s agreement” allowed for the Foreman to be paid $2.00 an hour higher than the highest paid laborer. The Road/Bridge committee called around and most Foremen are paid $1.00 an hour per employee supervised. Discussion was held about a written “contract,” and when the pay increase would be received in future years (beginning of FY or anniversary hire date).

Slifer made motion to approve the $6.00 an hour pay increase for the Highway Foreman. Williams seconded said motion.

Due to lack of a written agreement, Pearcy made motion to table the pay increase for the Highway Foreman. Cox seconded said motion, which failed by roll call vote (7 yes, 13 no). Ayes: M. Bennett, Cox, Gergeni, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy and Tate. Nay: Barr, B. Bennett, boehm, Coffman, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Kessler, Lenz, Simpson, Slifer, Swits and Williams.

The vote on Slifer’s motion to approve the pay increase, seconded by Williams, passed by roll call vote (13 yes, 6 no, 1 abstain – Cox). Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Kessler, Lenz, Simpson, Slifer, Swits and Williams. Nay: M. Bennett, Gergeni, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy and Tate. Abstain: Cox.

The Road/Bridge committee also approved to increase the pay of Reed Best, Chief Engineering Assistant by $3.00 an hour. B. Bennett made motion to approve the pay increase. Slifer seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (13 yes, 6 no, 1 abstain – Cox). Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Kessler, Lenz, Simpson, Slifer, Swits and Williams. Nay: M. Bennett, Gergeni, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy and Tate. Abstain: Cox.

The next discussion regarded hazardous weather hours worked by Foreman Stacy Prosser last winter and whether or not Prosser would be paid for these hours. The amount of hours Prosser currently has “comped” is 58 hours. Prosser discussed his concerns to the Road and Bridge committee, if he submitted this time, whether he would be paid for it. It was determined during the course of discussion that Prosser would be paid once these hours are submitted for payment.

Coffman stated due to of the resignation of Steve Dewitt on June 10 as County Highway Engineer, the board needed to appoint an acting county highway engineer. Former board member Dale Wetherell had offered to be the acting county highway engineer in the interim. IDOT Resolution form BLR02130, which is a resolution to request consent from IDOT for the County to appoint an acting County Highway Engineer was presented. Per the form, the County is requesting consent from IDOT. The return of the signed form signifies IDOT’s consent.

Slifer made motion to approve the resolution. B. Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

At this time, board member Julie Edwards, made a motion to rescind the Standard of Care for County Ambulance Services passed at the August 11, 2022 Board meeting. Orman seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 2 no – Drnjevic, Swits).

Edwards next presented an amendment to the payroll policy, specifically pertaining to general policies, Section A. The amendment states that in the event of a vacancy of the department head, the payroll sheets will be signed by either the County Board Chairman or their designee. Edwards made motion to approve the amendment. M. Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Lenz exited the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Shelby County Treasurer Erica Firnhaber requested approval for resolutions to assign tax sale certificates of purchase(0524-03-13-303-007, 1116-29-06-102-008, 1208-28-02-201-033, 2013-18-10-105-019, 0524-03-13-306-016) from the County Trustee to Situs Cultivation, LLC.

B. Bennett made motion to approve the assignments. Gergeni seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Farm Committee Chair Jeff Slifer deferred to Board Chairman Coffman to present the items for the County Farm.

Coffman first presented and referred to the Custom Farm Agreement for 2022-2023 that had previously been presented to the board for review. Swits made motion to approve the

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custom farm agreement. Barr seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no).

Swits moved to un-tabled discussing inputs for the County Farm. Williams seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no).

Coffman informed the board the farm committee will request bids for inputs (seed, fertilizer and spray). Bids will be due September 20, 2022 by 9:00 AM. The Farm Committee will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 9:00 AM to open these bids and make recommendation to the full board. A special meeting could be held on the same date following the Farm Committee meeting, should the board request it.

Coffman made motion to approve taking bids for farm inputs for 2022-2023. Slifer seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

 Crop Insurance is required to be in place by September 30. The Farm Committee would like to purchase crop insurance on the 2023 crops. Williams made motion to approve the purchase of crop insurance. Orman seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no).Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, M. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Cox, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Gergeni, Kessler, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy, Simpson, Slifer, Swits, Tate and Williams. Nay: none.

The next items discussed were approval of a resolution allowing the Farm Committee to select the operator for the County Farm for 2022-2023 and the other resolution would leave the decision to the county board.

Orman made motion to approve the full board selecting the operator. Tate seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, M. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Cox, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Gergeni, Kessler, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy, Simpson, Slifer, Swits, Tate and Williams. Nay: none.

Coffman presented the 2022 Tax levy for approval. Barr made motion to approve the tax levy. Swits seconded said motion. Much discussion was held about the reduction of the Mental Health levy to $450,000. $600,000 had been levied for Mental Health the previous year. Passage of the tax levy failed by roll call vote (5 yes, 13 no, Slifer abstains). Aye: B. Bennett, Coffman, Pearcy, Swits and Tate. Nay: Barr, M. Bennett, Boehm, Cox, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Gergeni, Kessler, Ongman, Orman Simpson and Williams. Abstain: Slifer.

Chairman Coffman called for committee reports. (Committee reports are attached to these minutes). Reports were given and items presented for follow-up or for public awareness are as follows:

Sheriff McReynolds updated the board the new food service was in place and working very well.

Chairman Coffman requested the following appointments:

Jolene Beyers – drainage commissioner for Oconee Drainage District for a 3-year term. Simpson made motion to approve the appointment. B. Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no).

Daniel Beyers – drainage commissioner for Oconee Drainage District for a 2-year term. Barr made motion to approve the appointment. B. Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no).

Ed Anderson – drainage commissioner for Big Spring/Prairie Drainage District for a 2 year term. Orman made motion to approve the appointment. Barr seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 1 no - Swits).

Kurt Probst – drainage commissioner for Big Spring/Prairie drainage district for 3 year term. Slifer made motion to approve the appointment. Simpson seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no).

There was no correspondence.

M. Bennett made motion to pay the claims as reviewed by the committees. Tate seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no): Ayes: Barr, B. Bennett, M. Bennett, Boehm, Coffman, Cox, Drnjevic, Durbin, Edwards, Gergeni, Kessler, Ongman, Orman, Pearcy, Simpson, Slifer, Swits, Tate and Williams. Nay: none.

There was no further business to come before the Shelby County Board.

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Swits made motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting to be held on October 13, 2022. Slifer seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

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 Jessica Fox, Shelby County Clerk and Recorder