STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF WOODFORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF WOODFORD COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, at an adjourned meeting thereof begun and held in the Woodford County Board Room in the City of Eureka, in said County, on the third Tuesday in July, AD 2020, same being the 21st day of said month.

Tuesday July 21, 2020 6:30 P.M.

Board met and was called to order by Chairman John Krug.

Chairman Krug began the meeting with a moment of silence for former 18 year County Board Member Kenneth Uphoff and then led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call by the Clerk. Present: Emily Barker (Zoom), Russ Cotton (Zoom), Joshua Davis, Justin Faulk, Richard Hill, Bryant Kempf, John Krug, Barry Logan, Charles Nagel (Zoom), Blake Parsons and Jerry Smith. Absent: Randy Roethler, unexcused; Jason Spence, excused; Dan Steffen, excused; and Donald Tolan, excused. Also present was County Clerk Dawn Kupfer. Note: unless noted otherwise, all Members were present in the Board Room. Additional note, due to the Zoom platform laptop location some responses were unclear and unable to report on.

Board announced in session by the Chairman.

Clerk Kupfer presented and read the Certificate of Giving Notice for this meeting.

Mr. Faulk moved the Certificate be approved as read, which motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and was unanimously carried.

Clerk Kupfer submitted the minutes of the June 16, 2020 regular session County Board meeting for additions, corrections and approval.

Mr. Logan moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 regular session County Board meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously carried.

Chairman Krug called for public input.

Mr. Chris Green of Tri-Global Energy, which is developing the wind project on the Eastern side of Woodford County spoke to the Board Members giving a general update on the project and the timing for submission of the application.

The Consent Agenda was presented and clarified for the reporting of these minutes.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the consent agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Kempf. Chairman Krug called for any items to be removed from the consent agenda.

Mr. Logan moved to pull Item (d) the Resolution 2019/20-074 setting the Salary for the Supervisor of Assessments Jodi Goff from Petitions, Resolutions and/or Motions.

Chairman Krug called for the approval of the remaining Items on the consent agenda, motion carried.

Appointments:

a. Approval of the reappointment of Dean Backer to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5 year term expiring August 1, 2025.
Petitions, Resolutions and/or Motions:
   a. Approval and adoption of the Official Zoning Map.
   b. Approval of Resolution 2019/2020-068 to execute a joint agreement with the State of Illinois on the HSIP Guardrail Improvement project, section 18-00170-00-SP.
   c. Approval of Resolution 2019/2020-069 authorizing payment of Woodford County Highway Department future utility bills in vacation.
   e. Approval of Ordinance 2019/2020-011 to amend the Access Regulations Ordinance.

Chairman Krug called for action on Item (d) from Petitions, Resolutions and/or Motions.

   Mr. Logan moved to approve Item (d) Resolution 2019/2020-074 setting the Salary for the Supervisor of Assessments, Jodi Goff for the Fiscal year 2019/2020, which was seconded by Mr. Smith. Mr. Logan moved to amend the Resolution to remove the name Jodi Goff from the Resolution as this is for a position, not a person, which was seconded by Mr. Davis; motion carried.

Chairman Krug moved on to the New Business portion of the Meeting; the first items under New Business was Item (a) the Certified list of Candidates for Democratic Party Election Judges; and Item (b) the Certified list of Candidates for Republican Party Election Judges both lists need County Board approval to be submitted to Court.

   Mr. Parsons moved to approve both the Democratic and Republican Party listings, which was seconded by Mr. Faulk; motion unanimously carried.

Chairman Krug called for a motion on Item (c) Resolution 2019/2020-071 the Public Defender Salary.

   Mr. Smith moved to approve Item (c) Resolution 2019/2020-071 the Public Defender Salary, which was seconded by Mr. Nagel; motion carried.

   Mr. Nagel moved to approve the Resolution 2019/2020-072 for annual employee performance reviews, which was seconded by Mrs. Barker. Mr. Nagel stated the Finance Committee has been talking about this concept for a year or so and have decided it was important to have some data to be able to decide salary increases during the budget process.

Chairman Krug called for discussion.

   Mr. Davis stated on these positions which are having the performance evaluations done his suggestion would be to also obtain a list of the job description and/or duties of each person. Mr. Davis went on to say in the event of a Department Head leaving the new person taking the position would then know the duties of their employees.

   Clerk Kupfer inquired about the Resolution year being 2020/2021-072 and the County is currently in 2019/2020.

   Mr. Nagel moved to amend the Resolution to read 2019/2020-072, which was seconded by Mrs. Barker; motion carried. Chairman Krug called for a vote on the approval of the main motion of Resolution 2019/2020-072, which unanimously carried.

Chairman Krug called for Item (e) Zoning Board of Appeals Guidance Relating to the Governor’s Orders on COVID-19.

   Mr. Parsons stated there is some concern over where the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings can be held concerning the up-coming wind farm project. Mr. Parsons stated originally the Committee thought the hearings
for the project would begin sometime in August, but due to a need from Tri-Global Energy those hearings may be held off until possibly September/October. Mr. Parsons stated the ZBA needs to be able to conduct these hearings and be able to anticipate more than 50 people being in attendance. He went on to say the hearings will be very lengthy as Tri-Global has stated their presentation of the application would be approximately 12 hours of testimony which would have to broke up into about 4 hours over 3 different nights. Mr. Parsons stated then you would have the presentation of the findings from the Zoning Board of Appeals which could be significant amount of time also. Mr. Parsons said the ZBA has looked into using the area schools, but with the COVID-19 restrictions in place the school is not likely to allow use of their facility. Mr. Parsons stated the Committee has looked at outdoor locations which would possibly be able to host the hearings, as well as he has spoken with the Mayor of Eureka. He went on to say much of the concern of everyone is the liability side of having a gathering and a bunch of people would come down with COVID. Much discussion continued on the matter and Mr. Parsons asked if any of the Members had thoughts or ideas on where to hold the hearings please contact him.

Chairman Krug announced Item (f) discussion and approval of the County Administrative Assistant/Department Head job description would be postponed until a later date.

Chairman Krug called for Item (g).

Mr. Faulk moved to approve Item (g) Health Care Committee to amend the plan to allow coverage for hearing related services and supplies effective with plan year 2021, which was seconded by Mr. Logan. Chairman Krug called on Treasurer Andrews for further explanation of the amendment. Ms. Andrews stated a participant in the program had inquired about the possibility of hearing aid related coverage being added to the plan. She went on to say there had been 3 options for consideration, and the Health Committee felt the option presented this evening would be the best option.

Chairman Krug called for a vote of this issue, which unanimously carried.

Chairman Krug called for the Presentation part of the meeting.

Ms. Lori Sea and Mr. Mitch Forrest, from Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc., an independent, not-for profit organization serving persons of all ages, incomes and abilities in Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford Counties. Ms. Sea presented information to the Board Members as to the various programs available to citizens whom meet certain requirements. Mr. Forrest presented information on a Caregiver Resource Guide available. For those interested please visit their website at www.ciaoa.net or their Facebook page at facebook.com/ciaoa.illinois.

Chairman Krug then called for the vote to approve the claims Paid in Vacation since the last meeting of the Board. Mr. Parsons moved to approve the Claims Paid in Vacation, which was seconded by Mr. Kempf. Chairman Krug asked if there were any claims to be added, hearing none. Motion carried.

Mr. Logan presented and read Resolution 2019/2020-070 approving the payment of the Claims, which was seconded by Mr. Smith.

Chairman Krug called for a roll call vote. County Board Members voting Aye: Emily Barker, Russell Cotton, Joshua Davis, Justin Faulk, Richard Hill, Bryant Kempf, John Krug, Barry Logan, Charles Nagel, Blake Parsons and Jerry Smith. County Board Members voting Nay: None. County Board Members absent: Randy Roethler, unexcused; Jason Spence, excused; Dan Steffen, excused; and Donald Tolan, excused. Motion carried.

The Report of the County Treasurer on receipts and disbursement of the General Fund, current fund balances and interfund transfers for the period ending June 30, 2020 was presented, as well as a report on the Revolving loan Fund. Ms. Andrews stated on the summary of accounts report the 058 MDP Fund (ADDWC Training Center) shows a negative balance, but her office has completed the first distribution of taxes which will show that fund in as positive. Ms. Andrews stated this happens every year and there should be no concerns with that fund. She went on to say her office has made the first distribution on July 14, 2020 to the 102 taxing bodies
of approximately 42.6 million dollars, and the second distribution will be September 15, 2020.

Mr. Faulk moved to place all of the Treasurer’s reports on file, which motion was seconded by Mr. Smith and was unanimously carried.

The report for the Office of the County Board dated July 21, 2020 was presented. Mr. Davis moved to place the Report on file, which motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and was unanimously carried.

The following communication will be placed on file for the regular meeting of the July 21, 2020 County Board meeting:

- Letter from Mediacom listing the upcoming changes to local cable television lineup on August 1, 2020.
- Notice from Prime Clerk LLC regarding proposed Counsel to the debtors and debtors in possession United States Bankruptcy court Southern District of New York pertaining to Frontier Communication Corporation.
- Notice of hearing in regards to Frontier Communications Corporation.
- Minutes of the Road and Bridge Committee meeting held June 8, 2020.
- Minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting held June 8, 2020.
- Minutes of the County Offices committee held on June 9, 2020.
- Minutes of the Finance & Economic Development Committee held on May 12, 2020.
- Minutes of the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Committee held on May 11, 2020.
- Minutes of the Health Care Committee held on June 10, 2020.

Mr. Kempf moved to place all correspondence on file, which motion was seconded by Mr. Parsons and was unanimously carried.

The respective Chairmen gave the reports of each Standing Committee.

Chairwomen Andrews reported for the Health Care Committee (Health Insurance Committee). Chairwoman Andrews reported they met last week and fund balances have remained stable. They do anticipate a little bit of a deficit at the end of the year as a result of the stop loss premiums going up. Chairwoman Andrews stated the main topic of their discussion was the Hearing Aide and the language proposed to be added. Chairwomen Andrews reported at next month’s meeting they will be discussing premium rates and hopefully they will have a recommendation to bring forward in August or September to the Board for next year’s premiums.

Mr. Hill, Chairman of the Road & Bridge Committee reported they discussed and reconsidered amendment of the Access Ordinance. Mr. Hill stated County Engineer Moore and States Attorney Minger reviewed it and made some changes to make it more flexible. Mr. Hill reported they are basically ending up with the same number of drives, the problem they were getting into with the access was for residential properties and giving more flexibility to County Engineer Moore to help accommodate those residents in a better way. That’s what they were looking to do and they believe compromises were met further stating it’s better than it was.

Mr. Cotton reported for the County Offices Committee. Mr. Cotton asked County Clerk and Recorder Dawn L. Kupfer to give an update and overview of costs related to the upcoming General Election. Clerk Kupfer explained through the Cares Act Grant she is getting $58,300 and what those funds can be used towards further stating she purchased some equipment to help the ease of her office staff preparing all the applications and vote by mail ballots. Clerk Kupfer stated she also received a Grant for postage in the amount of a little over $17,000 to offset the costs related to mailing of the 17,235 vote by mail applications and vote by mail ballots. Clerk Kupfer stated the sad part is she feels a good many of those applications will be tossed but she is forced to process them because of the House Bill. Mr. Parsons inquired as to why Clerk Kupfer feels those mailed
Mr. Nagel commented that DECO is pretty consumed with all that stuff and the revolving loan is taking a little bit of a backseat. Mr. Nagel commented about the Architect that is working towards our end goal stating line items. Mr. Nagel reported he was asked about the revolving loan fund stating he hadn’t heard from Jim stating in October will be the tentative budget and it will be up to the board to decide where to go with all those line items flat with some bubbles, nothing major, and nothing the budget shouldn’t be able to handle. Mr. Nagel clarified the non-contractual employees increases was set at a default of 2% but it was obvious to the committee going with 3% was more legit based on the agreed upon contracts with different groups throughout the County. Mr. Nagel stated it was his consensus they would get there but in a relatively lengthy discussion they decided to take those non-contractual employees in the process up to 3% further stating he asked the Treasurer to raise all non-contractual employees’ raises up to 3%. Mr. Nagel reported after the second group presents their budgets the committee will then meet in September to make their recommendations to bring to the full board further stating in October will be the tentative budget and it will be up to the board to decide where to go with all those line items. Mr. Nagel reported he was asked about the revolving loan fund stating he hadn’t heard from Jim Cummings. Mr. Nagel commented about the Architect that is working towards our end goal stating he is not sure what step in the process he is on. Mr. Nagel stated he does know with the Covid Grants and related Grants that DECO is pretty consumed with all that stuff and the revolving loan is taking a little bit of a backseat. Mr. Nagel commented that he will look into this and will report back to the full board next time they meet.

Chairman Krug wanted to let everyone know about the Cares Act and money for every division of Government nationwide further stating the Federal money came to Illinois and in Illinois the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has set the rules for the distribution of that money. Chairman Krug stated in all the municipalities he believes each one in Woodford County has an allotment and thinks El Paso would be $115,000 for example, Woodford County has an allotment of $624,000 (approximately) there is an allotment for the Woodford County Health Department as well as all others. In the Federal Act the County could use these funds to help businesses because of the costs of Covid issues. Department of Economic Opportunity has narrowed the scope so our $624,000 can only be used as a reimbursement of issues we can directly relate to the covid-19 issues. Chairman Krug explained through EMA most of the expenses that we had were reimbursed through FEMA so which leaves us our $624,000 unless there are people who would like to see the rules changed the $624,000 will go off the pot, go back into something and will go somewhere else. If you talk to any of our State Representatives this would be something good to mention, they have been told this but obviously the Representatives here are quite a minority issue its money that came through the Federal Act that we have been hearing about for months but we probably won’t be able to use. Chairman Krug stated he will keep everyone posted if anything changes.

Mr. Nagel, Chairman of the Finance & Economic Development Committee, reported via Zoom. Mr. Nagel reported they are into the budget process and spent their first night with several of the Departments going through their line items and how they allocated funds for next year. Mr. Nagel stated prior to their meeting he had sent out a memo to all the Department Heads asking them to keep their line items as flat as possible and try to keep non-contractual employee yearly raise at 2%. Mr. Nagel wanted to remind the Board they still don’t have a real good handle on any type of revenue downturns they haven’t done it too often in the past but as they get into next year there may be a reason to open the budget back up to either raise or lower some things. Mr. Nagel stated he is of the belief they won’t see much of a downturn based on sales tax being the biggest piece. Mr. Nagel reported the committee was very impressed with the presenters doing an excellent job keeping the line items flat with some bubbles, nothing major, and nothing the budget shouldn’t be able to handle. Mr. Nagel clarified the non-contractual employees increases was set at a default of 2% but it was obvious to the committee going with 3% was more legit based on the agreed upon contracts with different groups throughout the County. Mr. Nagel stated it was his consensus they would get there but in a relatively lengthy discussion they decided to take those non-contractual employees in the process up to 3% further stating he asked the Treasurer to raise all non-contractual employees’ raises up to 3%. Mr. Nagel reported after the second group presents their budgets the committee will then meet in September to make their recommendations to bring to the full board further stating in October will be the tentative budget and it will be up to the board to decide where to go with all those line items. Mr. Nagel reported he was asked about the revolving loan fund stating he hadn’t heard from Jim Cummings. Mr. Nagel commented about the Architect that is working towards our end goal stating he is not sure what step in the process he is on. Mr. Nagel stated he does know with the Covid Grants and related Grants that DECO is pretty consumed with all that stuff and the revolving loan is taking a little bit of a backseat. Mr. Nagel commented that he will look into this and will report back to the full board next time they meet.

Mr. Logan, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported the roof on the Courthouse has been
completed and the Courthouse is finally dry. Mr. Logan reported during their meeting they spent time going through the Audio/Visual proposals. Mr. Logan stated they had proposals from 3 different companies, they did ask 4 different companies for proposals but only received 3. Mr. Logan reported their committee had good discussion over the 3 different companies and the company they decided to use is Integrated Audio Systems further stating their company seemed to have what they wanted and conveniently it was the lowest price. Mr. Logan reported the amount for that proposal was $29,344.38 however an error was discovered in that proposal through some negotiations with the company they are going to give us a 2 year warranty instead of a 1 year warranty and bigger screens. Mr. Logan stated there was a $6,500 error in that proposal but they are willing to eat most of it but still with negotiations the cost ended up at $32,918.72 which still is the lowest bid out of the bunch. Mr. Logan stated he spoke with each Public Safety Committee member and although they are disappointed everyone was in agreement that they continue to use this company, they are providing the best product and happen to be the least money. Mr. Logan reported at the urging of Mr. Smith, contact was made with Eureka City Council where Mr. Logan turned this proposal over to him and he felt we were getting a bargain even with the additional cost, based on what they purchased with the same amount of money. Mr. Logan stated Sheriff Matt Smith will make the agreement because it has been budgeted and we are not over on the budget so the Sheriff will get this moving forward.

Blake Parsons, Chairman of the Conservation Planning and Zoning Committee, reported on their discussion on the Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting. Mr. Parsons stated they discussed pending items that were put on the back burner since Covid that committee needs to take to ZBA regarding the Inoperable Motor Vehicle Ordinance, a minor update to that. They received an update from the Zoning Administrator on Panther Grove Wind Farm update stating at the time they were talking from 103 turbines to now 84 turbines stating that is probably out the window with the news tonight they are re-evaluating for a more recent turbines they would like to use. Mr. Parsons reported on the reappointment of Dean Backer to the Zoning Board of Appeals that was approved at tonight’s meeting. Mr. Parsons reported on the discussion they had on chickens in residential areas they will be taking to the ZBA. Mr. Parsons stated several months back they went to ZBA to allow people to have some chickens in residential areas and now they are going to expand the scope of that to a couple degrees it has become a very popular thing especially now that people are home and they have these animals/pets that are very easy to maintain. Mr. Parsons reported on the updated and official Zoning Map of the County as well as a lengthy discussion on a hearing guidance for ZBA that is still on going.

Mr. Parsons reported for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Parsons reported that CP & Z has a few minor things turning it over to Lisa Jording that briefly gave an overview of the items/applications to be discussed at the July 28th meeting.

Chairman Krug called for Public Announcements.

Mr. Kempf reminded everyone that ADDWC had purchased the former Maurie’s candy store in Pekin, Illinois which has been relocated to Eureka, Illinois and he encourages everyone to visit their new shop, further noting it was well worth a visit.

Mr. Davis announced in 2018 he had moved a majority of his business to Florida, and purchased a home there as well. Mr. Davis went on to say he has been spending more time in Florida, and in the very near future he would be moving to that location which will create a vacancy on the Board. Mr. Davis is appreciative of all the people he has met and worked with.

Chairman Krug stated there were no need to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Parsons moved to adjourn until 6:30 P.M. the third Tuesday in August, A.D. 2020 same being the 18th day of said month, which motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and was unanimously carried.

Chairman Krug announced the Board adjourned at approximately 7:48 PM.

Attest: Dawn L. Kupfer, Woodford County Clerk & Recorder