

Chairman David Zimmerman
Kim D. Joesting, Dist. 1
Nancy Proehl, Dist. 1
Mark Goddard, Dist. 1
Kaden Nelms, Dist. 1
Nick Graff, Dist. 2
Greg Menold, Dist. 2
Greg Sinn, Dist. 2
Sierra Smith, Dist. 3
Dave Mingus, Dist. 3
Tammy Rich-Stimson, Dist. 3



John C. Ackerman
County Clerk

Vice Chairman, Michael Harris, Dist. 3
Jay Hall, Dist. 1
Michael Deppert, Dist. 1
Sam Goddard, Dist. 1
Vivian Hagamann, Dist. 2
Maxwell Schneider, Dist. 2
Roy Paget, Dist. 2
Randi Krehbiel, Dist. 2
Russ Crawford, Dist. 3
William (Bill) Atkins, Dist. 3
Greg Longfellow, Dist. 3

**TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2023
6:00 PM**

**James Carius Community Room, Tazewell Law & Justice Center,
101 S. Capitol Street, Pekin, Illinois 61554**

ROLL CALL BY COUNTY CLERK

Attendance was taken by Roll Call and the following members of the board were present: Board Chairman David Zimmerman, Members Atkins, Crawford, Deppert, Mark Goddard, Sam Goddard, Graff, Hagaman, Hall, Harris, Joesting, Krehbiel, Longfellow, Menold, Mingus, Nelms, Paget, Proehl, Schneider, Sinn, Smith - 21. Absent: Rich-Stimson - 1.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Zimmerman led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL & SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED COUNTY BOARD MEMBER

Motion by Member Crawford to approve the appointment of Michael Deppert to the unexpired term for County Board District 1; seconded by Member Sinn. Motion to approve Resolution E-23-32 was approved by voice vote of 19 Yeas; 0 Nays.

County Clerk John C. Ackerman administered the oath of office to County Board District 1 Member Michael Deppert.

COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Virg Cihca, a concerned citizen, spoke about the ARPA funding and the lack of transparency regarding those funds.

Joyce Blumenshine, a concerned citizen, spoke on how solar and wind farms would create jobs and generate revenue for the community. She indicated school districts in Tazewell County would receive over \$40 million in new revenue.

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David Spurlock voiced concern regarding the proposed zoning change to benefit a solar farm.

David Fey addressed the board and suggested the County Board deny the zoning change and keep the property zoned R 1 (Residential) and not allow a special use to be granted. He stated a solar farm would disturb the neighborhood.

Gary Waldsmith, a concerned citizen, encouraged the board to keep the property zoned residential 1. He stated the location of the proposed solar farm would affect property value and damage wildlife habitats.

Joe Mitchell, Assistant Pastor Bayview Church, voiced concern with the proposed zoning and stated this proposal would be a real threat to the neighborhood and a traffic hazard.

Keith Connwell, a Mackinaw resident, spoke in support of windmills in Tazewell County.

Melanie Blankenship, a concerned citizen, spoke on her intention to build on her farmland in Tazewell County. She said she is moving to Tazewell County from Logan County, which has overwhelming amounts of wind farms in their area.

Amber Towle, Member United Citizens of Tazewell County, spoke on the need to support the text amendment.

Fred Lawrence, a concerned citizen, voiced support of text amendment and praised United Citizens of Tazewell County for their work regarding this issue.

John Baker voiced concern with the proposed ordinance indicating passage would kill wind energy in Tazewell County. He indicated electricity was a necessity and energy needs to come from somewhere.

Emily Hopkins, Project Manager Rail Splitter Wind Farm, spoke on her excitement of working on the second phase of the Rail Splitter project. She indicated EDP Renewables have been good partners with Tazewell County for the past 15 years. She stated wind farms have generated over \$6 million in tax revenues, with \$3 million to school districts.

Jim Griffin, attorney for EDP Renewables, spoke on the benefits of wind energy. He stated if the text amendment would pass then the future of wind energy projects in Tazewell County would be restricted. He indicated wind energy projects create jobs and bring an economic impact during construction to the community.

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Kianna Nafzigers, member United Citizens of Tazewell County, provided a handout to the board. She spoke on the setback requirements and the possibilities to wave such setbacks.

Brad Long, a concerned citizen, voiced his support of the text amendment.

Tim Baer, thanked the board members for keeping people first. He voiced support of the text amendment.

Craig Kilby, member United Citizens of Tazewell County, spoke on school funding and the issues with decommissioning. He recognized the board members that have worked with his organization during this process.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED & APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

Member Menold spoke on the Broadway Road project that was recently completed. He recognized County Engineer Dan Parr and Paul Augspurger for their involvement in this project.

Member Graff notified the board that the Land Use item numbers on the agenda were transposed, and the Wind Energy Code item was LU-22-05, while the Zoning Map change item was LU-23-04.

Member Paget voiced concern with the process used to appoint county board members.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2023, COUNTY BOARD MEETING

Member Atkins moved to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 25, 2023, as printed; seconded by Member Schneider. Motion to approve the minutes as printed were approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas, 0 Nays.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Health Services: Approve agreement with Deer Creek for Animal Control Services, RESOLUTION HS-23-15. Item pulled from agenda prior to meeting.**
- 2. Health Services: Approve agreement with Green Valley for Animal Control Services, RESOLUTION HS-23-16. Item pulled from agenda prior to meeting.**
- 3. Health Services: Approve agreement with Pekin for Animal Control, RESOLUTION HS-23-17. Item pulled from agenda prior to meeting.**
- 4. Health Services: Approve agreement with Armington for Animal Control Services, RESOLUTION HS-23-18. Item pulled from agenda prior to meeting.**

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5. **Health Services: Approve agreement with Washington for Animal Control Services, RESOLUTION HS-23-19. Item pulled from agenda prior to meeting.**
6. **Land Use: Approve amendment to Title XV, Chapter 153 Wind Energy Code, RESOLUTION LU-22-05.**
7. **Land Use: Approve Map Amendment to the Official Fondulac Township Zoning Map, RESOLUTION LU-23-05.**
8. **Transportation: Approve IDOT Resolution for Improvement under the Illinois Highway Code for Section 21-00051-00-ES, RESOLUTION T-23-03.**
9. **Transportation: Approve bid for new tandem axle truck, RESOLUTION T-23-05.**
10. **Transportation: Approve bid for Low Boy trailer with specified equipment, RESOLUTION T-23-06.**
11. **Property: Approve RTU replacement at the Justice Center, RESOLUTION P-23-02.**
12. **Finance: Approve Probation Fund transfer, RESOLUTION F-23-14.**
13. **Human Resources: Approve amended service agreement for Flexible Spending Account, RESOLUTION HR-23-04.**
14. **Human Resources: Approve creation of position for Budget Director, RESOLUTION HR-23-03.**
15. **Risk Management: Approve grant from the Illinois Public Risk Fund, RESOLUTION RM-23-01.**
16. **Risk Management: Approve workers compensation settlement, RESOLUTION RM-23-02.**
17. **Executive: Approve agreement with Voltus, Inc., RESOLUTION E-23-08.**
18. **Executive: Approve contract with Axon Enterprises with the Public Defender, RESOLUTION E-23-30.**
19. **Executive: Approve payment for activity delivery services for the Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Closeout – Buildings, Grant #18-248591 per contractual agreement, RESOLUTION E-23-31.**
20. **Executive: Approve appointment to County Board for District 1, RESOLUTION E-22-32. Item moved to beginning of meeting.**

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Member Nelms moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the agenda packet; seconded by Member Sam Goddard. The Consent Agenda was approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion:

Item 6 Land Use: Member Crawford indicated he recommends approving the text amendment. Member Sinn voiced concern with the Ordinance since it was going against state law. Member Atkins stated he agreed with the United Citizens of Tazewell County on this issue, but he would be voting no because the Ordinance violates state law. Member Graff shared the same sentiments that he supported the effort of United Citizens, but cannot support this ordinance. Member Proehl echoed the same concerns that she would be voting no on this matter. Member Paget voiced support for this ordinance. Member Sam Goddard indicated it was in the best interest of all citizens to vote against this ordinance. Member Mark Goddard voiced concern about future litigation if this ordinance passed. Member Hagaman and Member Harris spoke in support of this ordinance. Chairman Zimmerman encouraged the board to vote no in order to follow the state law.

Member Hall motioned to approve the amendment to Title XV, Chapter 153 Wind Energy Code; seconded by Member Krehbiel. Motion failed by roll call vote of 10 Yeas; 11 Nays – Atkins, Deppert, Mark Goddard, Sam Goddard, Graff, Joesting, Longfellow, Proehl, Schneider, Sinn, Chairman Zimmerman.

Item 7 Land Use: Member Schneider motioned to allow discussion of the proposed approval of the Map Amendment to the Official Fondulac Township Zoning Map; seconded by Member Nelms. Member Sinn stated this property was zoned Residential One and not Agricultural and the ZBA was not in support of the proposed solar farm. He indicated the county board would be voting on the zoning change, not on the solar farm. Discussion occurred regarding the proposed zoning change and the reason behind the request.

Motion to approve Map Amendment to the Official Fondulac Township Zoning Map failed by voice vote of 0 Yeas; 20 Nays.

Item 9 Transportation: Member Menold explained the county received two bids and the differences in bids were \$50,000. Member Sinn moved to approve the bid for new tandem axle truck seconded by Member Schneider. Motion was passed by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

Item 14 Human Resources: Member Paget voiced concern regarding this position and stated he would not support this item. Member Menold indicated he was in support of the Budget Director position because it was needed. Member Atkins spoke in

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opposition to this position because he stated he was not convinced the position was needed. Member Graff stated this matter had been discussed twice and the position grade was changed from an 18 to a 17. Member Harris voiced support to the proposed Budget Director position. Member Crawford spoke on his days as Tazewell County Auditor and stated he would not be supporting this item. Member Paget suggested the Budget Director position be a contracted employee. Member Mingus stated he supported the Budget Director position because it was fiscally responsible and was the best practice to assure checks and balances. Member Longfellow referenced how bids for the property committee have increased because of the delay of having no employee in this position. Member Paget motioned to amend resolution to create the Budget Director position to be a contracted employee; seconded by Member Hagaman. Member Harris stated he would not support the amendment. Member Mark Goddard referenced a previous vote for a contract employee that failed. Member Menold called the question; seconded by Member Graff. Motion to amend resolution to allow the Budget Director position to be a contracted employee failed by voice vote of 1 Yeas; 19 Nays. Member Graff motioned to call the question to approve creation of the position of Budget Director seconded by Member Nelms. Motion was passed by roll call vote of 15 Yeas; 5 Nays – Atkins, Mark Goddard, Samuel Goddard, Hagaman, Paget.

Item 17 Executive: County Administrator Deluhery spoke on the revenue the county would receive over the next two years. Chairman Zimmerman indicated the State's Attorney has recommended a revised contract. Assistant State's Attorney Mike Holly spoke on the contract concerns.

At the conclusion of a board discussion Member Graff motioned to Table the agreement with Voltus, Inc; seconded by Member Schneider. Motion was approved by roll call vote of 17 Yeas; 3 Nays – Hagaman, Menold, Sinn.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

E-23-24: Member Graff moved to reappoint Tony Rendleman to the Emergency Telephone Systems Board; seconded by Member Longfellow. Resolution E-23-24 was approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

E-23-25: Member Graff moved to reappoint Rick Brodrick to the Emergency Telephone Systems Board; seconded by Member Longfellow. Resolution E-23-25 was approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

E-23-26: Member Graff moved to appoint Bobby Zimmerman to the Emergency Telephone Systems Board; seconded by Member Longfellow. Resolution E-23-26 was approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

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E-23-29: Member Graff moved to reappoint Sarah Sies to the Shaeferville Fire Protection District; seconded by Member Longfellow. Resolution E-23-29 was approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was determined no unfinished business for the board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

It was determined no new business for the board at this time.

Review of approved bills.

Board Members reviewed the approved bills as presented.

APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2023 CALENDAR

Member Proehl moved to approve the March 2023 calendar; seconded by Member Sam Goddard. Motion to approve the March 2023 calendar was approved by voice vote of 20 Yeas; 0 Nays.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Board Chairman Zimmerman announced the meeting was adjourned. The Tazewell County Board Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM. The next scheduled County Board meeting will be March 29, 2023.