

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 Goodard, Dist. 1
Vivian Hagaman, 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
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2023
8:00 AM**

**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, Vice Chairman Harris, Members Atkins, Crawford, Deppert, Graff, Hagaman, Hall, Joesting, Longfellow, Menold, Nelms, Paget, Proehl, Schneider, Smith - 16. Absent: Mark Goddard, Sam Goddard, Krehbiel, Mingus, Rich-Stimson, Sinn - 6

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

DISCUSSION: Background information and future plans for County properties

Tazewell County Chairman David Zimmerman spoke on the cooperation with the City of Pekin and the importance of having a downtown campus. He indicated how the county has been very transparent regarding this matter.

Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman spoke on transparency and requested documents regarding this proposed project be available in his office.

County Administrator Mike Deluhery reviewed a power point presentation that spoke on the history of Pekin as well the plans for Tazewell County in downtown Pekin. He stated new construction would invest in downtown Pekin. It would show recommitment of Tazewell County to solidify downtown presence for years to come and bring new jobs and services to downtown.

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Health Department Needs:

Having a Pekin location for the Health Department would move services closer to the population center. For example, Clinic Services, which would be utilized for preventive care and early detection services and WIC Services, which aims to protect the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age five. The Dental Clinic closed prior to the pandemic and 21% of residents lack access to dental care.

Administrative Building Needs – Pre-Pandemic

Administrator Deluhery's power point referenced the Building Assessment Report issued February 5, 2020, that stated "advantages of a new building would include financial and performance efficiencies achieved through combined occupancy into one building, improved functionality, and reduced energy costs. It does not appear that retaining both the Old Post Office and Tazewell Building is an economical long-term solution for the County." He indicated Tazewell County received \$25.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act. Deluhery said an ARPA AdHoc Committee was formed and met in 2021. Building priorities of a satellite Health Department Building and Justice Center-phase 2 were discussed. In the power point presentation, there were drawings for the proposed health department and justice center. Also included in the presentation were pictures showing the dilapidated conditions of the Arcade and Tobin Buildings.

Phase 2 Justice Center Next Steps

- Final determination of services in building
- Asbestos & Demolition Bidding
- Space Study Completion
- Architectural Drawings & Bidding in 2023
- Construction Beginning: 2024
- Upon Completion: Old Post Office & Tazewell Building can be made available once vacated.

Tazewell County Administrator reviewed the following investments in County-Built facilities:

- \$7.6 Million in five-year capital plan for downtown facilities
- Walkway Repairs: Courthouse & Justice Center
- Windows: Courthouse & McKenzie Building
- Parking Lot repaving: 400 Court Street Block
- Roofing: Justice Center & McKenzie Building
- HVAC System: Courthouse & McKenzie Building
- Electrical Upgrades: Courthouse & McKenzie Building
- Restrooms: Courthouse
- Lighting: Justice Center

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Desired Outcomes

- Solidify County government presence
- Creating operational efficiencies and opportunities by constructing new buildings that are visually complementary to Downtown
- Preserve the 300 jobs in downtown Pekin and bring in new services and jobs
- Catalyst for Other Development

Following the power-point presentation Chairman Zimmerman spoke on the need for office space and stated this proposed project was a once in a lifetime opportunity for downtown Pekin. He stated the County had no intention of taking down the Courthouse.

Member Paget welcomed the concerned citizens in attendance. He asked if the new construction could keep the facade of current building for historical appearance.

Member Longfellow responded that the county would try to make it similar.

Member Graff showed the board a picture of a recent day in traffic court and the overcrowded conditions. He voiced concerns with the safety issues of overcrowding and the need for better bathroom facilities within the courthouse. He stated the phase 2 project of the Justice Center was discussed twenty years ago.

Member Atkins voiced concern with the ventilation system in the courthouse not being equipped to handle the large amount of people that utilize it. He stated discussions have been ongoing for years about an expansion of the Justice Center. He suggested a new facility could assist the courthouse with their ventilation issues because the number of people using the facility would be reduced.

Member Proehl spoke on the use of the ARPA Funds and asked Member Graff to explain the limits involved with these funds.

Member Graff responded to Member Proehl's request and spoke on the limits of the ARPA Funds and the basic needs for the use of such funds.

Member Hagaman spoke on the requirement to pay prevailing wage, which would affect the construction budget.

Chairman Zimmerman stated some reserves would be utilized to help pay for the building.

Member Schneider indicated his family was from Pekin and he reflected on the revitalization of downtown Pekin. He said he was looking forward to continued improvement and restoration of downtown.

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Member Crawford spoke on being financially conservative and was opposed to borrowing any money for the proposed project. He said he supported historical preservation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Diana Lee, a Pekin resident, spoke in opposition to the Arcade and Tobin Buildings proposed demolition. She spoke on the need to save Pekin's history and the need for transparency.

Deborah Montgomery, concerned citizen, voiced her opinion on the proposed demolition of the Arcade and Tobin Buildings.

Jacqueline Wyant voiced concern about the demolition of Pekin's historic buildings. She referenced the demolition of the West Campus years ago and encouraged the historic buildings be saved.

Keith Dunkelbarger, a Pekin resident, encouraged the board to maintain the historic buildings in Pekin and to take pride in the buildings.

Arvella Guidotti, a former county employee, spoke on the need for storage of files at the courthouse. She requested to be present when any improvements to the courthouse happened. She indicated the county had several historic items and would like to see them on display at a museum possibly in the Tazewell Building.

Rick Hilst, a Pekin taxpayer, spoke on Tazewell County's five-year capital improvement plan. He referenced a proposed bill in the state legislature requiring judicial fees to help in the construction of a new justice center.

Sue Crowell, a concerned citizen, spoke on the need to preserve historical buildings and opposed any demolition proposed.

Lonnie Howard, a Pekin resident, voiced her opposition to any building being demolished.

John McNish, a concerned citizen, spoke on the need to maintain current buildings and requested preventive maintenance for all buildings. He referenced the building maintenance budget for the county.

Bogy Czesak, a Pekin resident, voiced opposition to demolition of the Arcade Building. He referred to the many historic buildings in his homeland of Poland that are still operational after hundreds of years.

Dixie Gray, a lifelong Pekin resident, spoke on her opposition to the demolition.

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Michelle Teheux, a concerned citizen, spoke on the need to maintain historic buildings. She referenced the architecture in Europe that is still standing after many years or the historic part of the City of Galesburg to show that historic buildings could be utilized for other uses.

Christina Olar voiced concerns with the proposed demolition of the Arcade and Tobin Buildings. She encouraged the board to represent what the citizens want. She referenced how the City of Galena used historic buildings to provide tourism opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Zimmerman announced the meeting was adjourned. The Tazewell County Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M. The next scheduled County Board meeting will be March 29, 2023.