TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2022
8:30 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, Connett, Crawford, Darcy, Hall, Hauer, Imig, Joesting, Longfellow, Menold, Proehl, Rich-Stimson, Schneider, Sciortino, Sinn, Smith - 18. Absent: Altpeter, Goddard, Graff, Mingus - 4

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & COUNTY EMPLOYEES

It was determined that there were no communications from members of the public or county employees.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED & APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

It was determined that there were no communications from elected or appointed county officials.

DISCUSSION: PLANS FOR THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS AND ARPA PRIORITIES

Chairman Zimmerman thanked Nick Graff and Greg Longfellow for their hard work and dedication in regards to their leadership of the ARPA and Property Committees. He listed the priorities that originally were slated for the ARPA money as the following: Employee hazard pay, Health Department Requests, Justice Center plans, loss revenue, broadband expansion and distribution of grants.
Facilities Director Mike Schone spoke on the status of buildings within the downtown campus. He stated all the buildings are in need of work and continued the discussion explaining the needs of each building.

**Tazewell Building:** Director Schone indicated the Tazewell Building was structurally bad. He stated the brick on the building was deteriorating, the chimney was on the verge of collapsing from the basement, roof and windows needed replaced and HVAC needed updating. The Regional Office of Education and Public Defender’s office are located within the Tazewell Building. The Public Defender’s office has six employees while the Regional Office of Education has seven.

In response to Member Proehl’s question, Mr. Schone stated the Tazewell Building was attached to the next building, which has created some roof leaks. He stated this building had no sprinkler systems installed.

Member Crawford voiced concerns with Tazewell County’s history of purchasing old buildings and the cost to maintain them.

In response to Member Hall’s question regarding what would happen to the Tazewell Building if the County moves out, Director Schone stated the City of Pekin would probably request demolition.

**Arcade Building:** Director Schone explained Northside of building had bricks that were deteriorating, daily plumbing issues and windows leak.

In response to Member Connett’s question regarding if the Arcade Building had a historical designation, Chairman Zimmerman indicated that it didn’t have an historical designation.

Member Sinn asked what offices were located inside the Arcade Building. Some of the Arcade Building tenants are Tazewell County Veterans Affairs office, the Guardian Ad Litem office, Gateway Treatment Facility and Siren Tattoo Studios. Discussions took place regarding the income these tenants generate and the cost of maintaining the building.

**Old Post Office:** Probation and a division of the States Attorney’s office are located in the Old Post Office. Director Schone stated the elevator needs repaired, bathrooms are in need of repair, HVAC problems, all windows needed replaced, roof was recently repaired, brick and mortar issues and septic problems.

Member Connett asked if the County had any restrictions regarding the Old Post Office because of its historical designation. Director Schone stated no restrictions on the building and it was able to be demolished. Chairman Zimmerman stated the building could be listed for sale.
Courthouse: Director Schone indicated the Courthouse had many issues including electrical issues, windows needing replaced, staircase needing repaved and the ventilation is very poor.

It was determined that the basement had a generator in it, but was not functioning and was very expensive to remove.

McKenzie Building: Director Schone stated the stone on the outside of the building was deteriorating and all windows needed replaced.

In response to Member Hall's question, regarding if the County had an estimate cost for all the repairs, Director Schone indicated they did not.

Chairman Zimmerman indicated the County had $23 million available.

Circuit Clerk Lincoln Hopson stated the County established a capital plan five years ago to address building improvements as well as future needs.

In response to Terry Fisher, a concerned citizen's question pertaining to any stipulations on the use of the ARPA Funding, Chairman Zimmerman stated the guidelines had limited restrictions. Zimmerman indicated the money needed to be committed by 2024 with completion of any projects by 2026.

Discussion took place in regards to the restrictions of the ARPA Funds. Chairman Zimmerman said $10 million was unrestricted and $13 million had to meet the established criteria. Auditor Grimm explained the spending guidelines.

Health Department: Health Department Administrator Amy Fox provided a handout to the board, with a proposal for ARPA funds in reference to the Health Department. Administrator Fox explained the current Health Department was thirty-two years old and the construction of the current building does not allow for any type of expansion. She spoke on the condition of the building, which had cracks around the entire building. She explained how COVID affected the Health Department, especially with the loss of the dental clinic.

Member Sinn indicated the current Health Department facility served a purpose, but was not ideal for all of Tazewell County's population.

In response to Member Darcy's question regarding the need for a new building, Administrator Fox said new construction was not necessary, but additional space was required. Administrator Fox stated a larger facility was needed with or without a dental clinic. She recommended a facility within the population center of Tazewell County, which included a close proximity to a bus line in order to serve the citizens without transportation.
Member Proehl voiced concern with citizens not aware of the current location of the Health Department.

Administrator Fox stated the Health Department has seventy-five employees and are extremely limited with work and storage space.

Member Connett voiced concern with the limited space of the facilities, especially for the storage aspect. She was concerned if a disaster would ever hit the health department and the retention of all records.

Member Harris indicated if the Health Department would move to Pekin this could expand the clientele. He said a new building would save money on maintenance cost. He also indicated Animal Control had some needs of their own that needed addressed.

Administrator Fox said no meetings have taken place regarding a space study, but she recommends utilizing the Tremont building even if the Health Department were to move to another facility.

Member Menold voiced concerns with moving the Health Department. He stated he understood the need to benefit all citizens of Tazewell County, but was concerned with the Health Department having different facilities throughout the County.

Member Hauter discussed the Health Department needs in reference to a new building and what the ARPA Committee had planned.

Administrator Fox explained that she was trying to be a good steward of tax payers money and indicated new construction wasn’t necessary.

Courts/Proposed Justice Center: State’s Attorney Stewart Umholtz voiced concerns with the old buildings the County currently owns. He spoke on the courthouse being 100 years old. He voiced support in keeping the current courthouse, but stated operations would be better if all court personnel were in one location. He indicated the current courthouse needed ventilation as well as new windows.

State’s Attorney Umholtz suggested a constructing a new building to house court personnel within a close proximity of the jail.

In response to Member Rich-Stimson’s question regarding the number of staff at the courthouse, Chairman Zimmerman stated around forty people worked at the courthouse.

Member Schneider left the meeting at 9:45 AM.

Chief Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit Kate Gorman addressed the board regarding the court’s needs. She stated this was the time to move forward in constructing a courthouse operations building. She remarked on the changing world and the need for
a facility that meets the required security for employees, citizens and detained individuals. She said the judiciary was in support of this project.

Baylee Gambetti, a concerned citizen questioned the cost of a new justice center, which would be $25 million. She stated since the current courthouse was on the bus line, could that be an alternative for the Health Department. Lastly, she suggested before any of the county buildings be demolished they should be placed for sale. Chairman Zimmerman indicated the County was working with Farnsworth Group and said Property Committee Chairman Longfellow stated a new justice center would be 60,000 square foot building at $350.00 a square foot.

In response to Member Harris’s question regarding if the 60,000 square foot building would include the Circuit Clerk’s office, Caius Jennison, Representative with Farnsworth Group explained the new construction would include all court personnel including the Circuit Clerk’s office.

Auditor Brett Grimm explained the County has been discussing similar plans for many years and they need a plan to move forward. He voiced concern with the cost to maintain a new building.

Member Connett asked if any type of studies were done regarding construction of a new Health Department.

Member Longfellow stated no studies done, but looking at a 10,000 – 12,000 square foot building to accommodate the Health Department needs.

County Clerk John C. Ackerman spoke on the need for new windows in the McKenzie Building and the potential need for security in the building.

Member Atkins indicated he was in support of constructing a new building with the money the County had available, but not if bonds or referendums were required.

Member Longfellow stated demolition would be end of this year with construction in early spring next year.

Chairman Zimmerman stated the County had $23 million in ARPA funds and up to $6 million in fund balances available for this project. He suggested the County spend $5 million on a remodel of the current Courthouse, $5 million for new space to accommodate the Health Department needs, $10 million for a new administration building to accommodate the State’s Attorney and Probation, leaving $3 million to utilize on broadband and the remaining as a financial cushion for the County.

Member Crawford voiced concerns about borrowing money and he requested a word document of the Chairman’s proposal. Member Hall stated he agreed with Member Crawford’s comments.
Member Darcy suggested the County consider different options and review the cost of the different proposals.

Member Menold left the meeting at 10:21 AM.

Human Resources Director Angela Hutton stated operations cost needed reviewed for new building versus old building. Member Proehl stated she agreed with Chairman Zimmerman and indicated the County needed to move forward with a plan.

Member Hauter left the meeting at 10:27 AM.

County Administrator Mike Deluhery indicated a referendum had to be filed within 79 days before an election. For the November 2022 election, the deadline date would be August 21, 2022 and for the Spring 2023 election the date is January 13-2023.

Member Joesting stated the Health Department needed to be in their own facility and he requested information regarding a bus schedule for potential clients.

Member Atkins indicated he was not in favor of Chairman Zimmerman’s plan and he voiced concerns with affordability of the various projects. He supported the needs of the criminal courts and health department.

**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 10:36 A.M. The next scheduled County Board meeting will be June 28, 2022.
May 31, 2022

Chairman Zimmerman-

The Board of Health has been monitoring the ARPA Committee and Property Committee discussions. Our Board is pleased that the Health Department services and contributions are being recognized and considered for prioritization of the ARPA funds.

Recently, we have been considering our new Community Health Assessment data. This data calls to light several points of importance to consider. The loss of the Dental program has come forward as a gap in access to services. This point is of significance and was pulled out of the Tri-County Assessment as a key concern. Another point identified is the need for continuing support of nutrition in our community. Tazewell Counties rate of overweight/obesity is 64.8%. Fruit and vegetable consumption is at a low mark of 60% eating only 1-2 servings of the recommended 5 per day. Our WIC program is a key support of young families and an evidence-based program teaching young families proper nutrition and providing supports. Both concerns, dental and WIC would be more accessible to the community in Pekin. The Tremont campus creates a barrier to serving those most in need because of the cost for, time and distance to travel to the facility.

In looking at the areas of poverty in our community, Pekin area would be a better fit for accessibility. The addition of bus services would help clients from East Peoria and all along Route 29 to access our programs. Currently, there is no bus service to Tremont. In fact, with fewer taxi companies we find ride share drivers agreeing to bring clients to the health department, but they leave and may not return for pick up. This leaves families waiting for someone who can pick them up or arranging for another driver.

Our experience with COVID and the use of a facility in Pekin provided the community tremendous access to our services. There were many comments about glad that you are “in town”.

To give a look at numbers of clients we are anticipating serving- TCHD Dental was providing over 14,000 services to 5216 patients per year on average prior to the pandemic.

WIC has an active caseload with benefits of 905 with a potential of at least 385 additional clients that could be receiving benefits. Clinic Services provided an average of 7,615 services to our community looking at the past three years and subtracting COVID immunizations.

The Board of Health is willing to discuss with the County Board our readiness, service potential and vision of services at any time. Please feel free to reach out to me by email or my cell 309-635-5621.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Mullis, President
SPECIAL CALLED
TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD MEETING

James Carius Community Room
Saturday, June 04, 2022 – 8:30 a.m.

David Zimmerman - Chairman of the Board
Michael Harris - Vice Chairman of the Board

A. Roll Call
B. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
C. Communications from members of the public and county employees
D. Communications from elected and appointed county officials
E. Discussion: plans for the downtown campus and ARPA priorities
F. Recess to June 29, 2022
Proposal for ARPA
Tazewell County Health Department
USES OF ARPA FUNDING

Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.

Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.

Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.

Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,

Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.


Request for Assistance

Tazewell County Health Department is providing this document as a request for dollars to assist with public health needs as a result of COVID and needs that have been identified through community health assessment, strategic planning, and national research into COVID recovery, which have been impacted by COVID.

Part 1 Service Improvement – This section outlines a request for assistance to reinstate dental services and move current WIC and clinic services into the population center of the county to better serve our citizens.

Part 2 Community Health Improvement – This section outlines specific needs identified to assist our citizens with health issues of concern as identified in our Community Health Assessment and Strategic Plan.

Each part has a specific ask identified that will help us to impact change.
1. Service Improvement

☐ **Dental Services**: Dental Services for those who are uninsured or who use a state sponsored insurance is very difficult to obtain. The pandemic hit at a time in the Tazewell County Health Departments Dental program history where service provision being uncertain, and the historic financial loss of the dental division combined and led to the decision to close the dental center in May of 2020. Since the time of the closure, several agencies and boards have reached back to TCHD to reconsider the closure because of lack of available care. The Board of Health has discussed and would like to see the service reopened. A permanent location that has less overhead is the only potential solution to financial concerns that would make bringing the dental center back feasible.

On our recent, fall of 2021 Community Health Status Assessment, Dental Services in Tazewell County was identified as now as a service gap. We believe this is from the loss of the TCHD Dental Center in 2020.

The reopening of TCHD Dental Center could not occur in the current clinic space in the Tremont Campus Buildings.

TCHD Dental was providing over 14,000 services to 5216 patients per year on average prior to the pandemic. These patients are not able to access traditional dentists as most will not accept public insurance or payment plans.

☐ **Need to bring services closer to the target population/center**: A building that is more accessible and closer to the population center is needed. The current TCHD location in Tremont is not ideal for anyone with gaps in transportation and limits their ability to seek services for themselves and their families.

A building in the population center that meets the space requirements and is accessible to public transportation would make clinical services more accessible to the community than is possible at our Tremont location.

WIC has an active caseload with benefits for 905 families with a potential of at least 385 additional clients that could be receiving benefits.

Clinic Services provided an average of 7,615 services to our community looking at the past three year and subtracting COVID immunizations.

A location in the population center would enable both WIC and Clinic Services to expand for our vulnerable populations and be more accessible for many families to access immunizations and nutrition support.

Dental services could be co-located out of this address with Clinic Services and WIC.
Asking for:

Purchase of space in Pekin that would house Clinic services, WIC, and Dental programs

Remodel of the property to be up to current codes and service needs

Located close to a bus stop

Adequate parking for a surge in services

Unknown Cost at this time.

Directors of Birth to 5 and Clinic Services provide their top reasons for these services to move to Pekin:

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) services:

Transportation. In the last WIC participant survey for Tazewell County, 23% of the clients surveyed indicated that transportation is a barrier to keeping appointments. Currently there is no public transportation available to TCHD. Being within the city of Pekin with the availability of public transportation could reduce this barrier to services.

Birth Outcomes. TCHD was awarded the Better Birth Outcomes (BBO) grant due to a high number of poor birth outcomes in the cities of Pekin and Washington. Being in proximity to these pregnant women to provide services will increase their access to our services, providing education and resources to help insure a positive birth outcome. The following information is from an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) titled Association of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) with Preterm Birth and Infant Mortality:

Three central findings emerged from this national cohort study of prenatal WIC participation. First, the proportion of low-income expectant mothers (i.e., covered by Medicaid) who also received WIC benefits decreased substantially over time. Second, receipt of WIC benefits during pregnancy was associated with reduced odds of preterm birth and infant mortality. Third, the magnitude of these associations was approximately equal among low-income non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic white women.

These findings are consistent with those of a large body of research that found participation in the WIC program was associated with improved birth outcomes. This study adds to the existing literature by providing a contemporary estimate of the associations between WIC and preterm birth and between WIC and infant mortality.

Participation in WIC may lower the likelihood of preterm birth and reduce gestational age-specific infant mortality through several possible biological mechanisms. First, the food supplementation enabled by WIC participation is associated with higher overall and protein-specific caloric intake, both of which are associated with improved fetal growth and increased birth weight. Second, WIC participation during pregnancy is associated with increased vitamin D intake, which may lower the risk of pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia (a major cause of fetal mortality). Similarly, WIC participation during pregnancy is associated with greater maternal iron intake, which may increase birth weight for gestational age. Third, the WIC program encourages breastfeeding by providing
guidance, counseling, and breast pumps. Breastfeeding is associated with reduced risk of post neonatal death (death between 28 days and 1 year after birth). This study reaches substantively different conclusions from those of several studies that found no or little association between WIC benefits and key birth outcomes. For example, Foster et al. assessed the association between WIC participation and 6 birth outcomes (e.g., preterm birth) and found no significant implications of the WIC program. However, assessment of WIC participation was based on maternal recall; for some participants, pregnancy occurred years or decades before they were surveyed. The present study was based on maternal recall of WIC participation at the time of delivery and was likely subject to less recall bias. Joyce et al. noted that gestational age bias could have led to overestimated associations between WIC and birth outcomes. We accounted for gestational age bias and found reduced odds of infant mortality within each gestational age category.

Population. Currently, we have 553 active participants in the WIC program that reside in the 61554-zip code. We know that WIC currently has approximately a 55% coverage rate in Illinois, leaving many eligible families underserved. By reducing the transportation barrier to receive our services, along with increasing our visibility in the community, we hope to increase that coverage rate, resulting in healthier children and families, better birth outcomes and increasing food security.

Dental Services:

Access to dental care for Tazewell and Woodford County residents remains very difficult, and our pediatric population is especially impacted by the lack of providers that accept Medicaid insurance. In the school year 2021-2022, an independent in-school dental care provider assessed the oral health of 1,213 students in Tazewell County. A total of 38% (465) of the children assessed were found to have Oral Health Assessment (OHA) ratings of 2 or 3. A rating of 2 indicates the presence of decayed teeth that need either fillings or crowns. A rating of 3 indicates advanced dental disease including signs or symptoms of pain, infection, exposed nerves, or swollen/bleeding gums.

A focused report showing the OHA ratings of the children in Pekin School District 108 (Kindergarten through 8th grade) shows a total of 42% of children with an OHA rating of 2 or 3.

The in-school provider has historically been able to provide some basic services (fluoride treatment, dental sealants) during the assessment process; however, due to an elimination of grant funding for services, only exams will be provided in the next school year.

Clinic:

TCHD’s Clinic Services are preventive care and early detection services. We provide cancer screenings, well-baby checks, vaccinations, bloodwork, TB testing and treatment, physical exams, STI testing and treatment, and women’s health exams. These services prevent the onset of illness, as well as provide early detection of conditions.

The location of the Tremont clinic remains a barrier for many in the county. A downtown Pekin clinic location would enable TCHD to see community members who
rely on public transportation, as well as those in the nearby area who typically do not have access to preventive care services due to a lack of insurance, transportation, or essential resources. Relocation would allow us to not only provide current preventive care and early detection services to a vulnerable population, but to expand services as additional needs are recognized.

Dental and Clinic:

Better access to both Clinic and Dental services through relocation to the downtown Pekin area would potentially offset some of the burden of unnecessary Emergency Room visits, especially for STIs and dental emergencies. The location would also enable TCHD to provide STI testing and treatment to those previously served at the Pekin Planned Parenthood location (now closed).

Appendix A: Map of WIC eligible population. The area in pink depicts where the highest number of WIC eligible participants live. Pekin is the highest with 553 eligible. Public bus transportation would be an option for many that live within this densely populated area.

Appendix B: Families with income under $50K per year could be eligible for WIC services depending on their household size. These graphs show that there could be a large number of families that are not currently being served by WIC that would be eligible.
2. Community Health Improvement

☐ **Mental Health**: This area will be one that needs additional support and work following the pandemic and is currently one of our community health priorities. Suicide, Poor Mental Health Days and Days of Frequent Mental Distress are Higher in Tazewell County in all areas than our state averages. The effects of the past year will likely increase these percentages in the wrong direction in even greater rates. Mental Health was chosen on 5.24.22 at the number one health need in the Tri County Community Health Needs Assessment.

**Asking for:**

A planner/health educator who could build opportunities for collaboration and alignment of work in our county among organizations and citizens. $80,000/ per year for 4 years. Includes- Salary, benefits, and outreach dollars.

☐ **Surveillance**: An additional Data Analyst on staff who could work on surveillance projects, data management and reporting. As we have learned with COVID numbers and the ability to accurately calculate, display and explain in a timely fashion is critical in navigating an outbreak. Ongoing monitoring of emerging health issues and local data reporting have become expected of Local Health Departments.

**Asking for:**

A Data Analyst with a background in data management, surveying, database, web content development and training. This position would be able to establish processes and protocols for ongoing data management, screening, surveying, and surveillance. Would work with Epidemiologist as a team. $74,000 for 4 years. Includes Salary, benefits, and software costs.

☐ **Food Insecurity**: Food has been one of the most requested resources during the COVID event of families in distress. Tazewell County Health Department has been partnering to provide mobile pop-up pantries that can help to distribute food all around the county. Pop-up events occurred in Creve Coeur, Washington, Minier, Delavan and Pekin. The ability to get the food delivered from one the food banks cause an additional stress to their operations. Additionally, we have worked to build a Good Food Recovery program where local food drives and donor garden partners collect fresh produce for Food Pantries. Last year over 22,000 lbs. of produce was moved. This year’s goal is 30,000 lbs. TCHD has been the mechanism for this delivery. Appendix C highlights this need.

**Asking for:**

Dollars for a refrigerated van than can keep dairy, lean meat, and produce cold for transport and distribution. Cost estimate for a refrigerated van is $35,000.
Tazewell WIC
Clients as of
July 20, 2021
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Graph #</th>
<th>Zip Code</th>
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<th>% in Poverty</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</table>

*Income Under $50K per year is included as it depends on household size, they could be eligible for WIC services.*

Data for % in Poverty for 61611, 61610, 61550, 61571, 61554
https://www.census.gov

Data for % in Poverty for ALL OTHER zip codes
https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org/
  Used the # for household income <$25,000/population * 100 = % in poverty

PROPOSAL FOR AMERICAN RECOVERY ACT DOLLARS | Appendix B
2020 Food distribution:

**12 mobile pantries**

Over 1500 USDA Farmers to Families Boxes distributed

Over 30,000 lbs of food

**GROW A ROW**

5 gardens participated
18,426 pounds distributed