

**COUNTY BOARD MINUTES – MOULTRIE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF MOULTRIE)

The Moultrie County Board met on Thursday, February 15, 2024, in the County Board Room, Second Floor, Moultrie County Courthouse. Chair Billy Voyles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The opening prayer was given by board member Aaron Wilhelm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call was taken, with the following members present Billy Voyles, Tyler Graven, Travis Phelps, Scott Buxton, Aaron Wilhelm, Kenny Graven, and Josh Roe. Absent - Marsha Kirby and John Vander Burgh. A quorum was present.

There were 13 people in attendance, seven board members, and County Clerk Qualls.

Mission Statement – Read by Scott Buxton.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Minutes: Mr. Voyles asked for a motion to approve the January 11, 2024, county board minutes. Mr. T. Graven moved to approve said minutes. Mr. Buxton seconded the motion. With no discussion, roll call vote was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Guest Speaker: Beth Beck-Marts of Central Illinois Public Transit (CIPT) gave an update on CIPT. Ms. Marts stated it is time to prepare for fiscal year 2025, so she needs Moultrie County to pass their ordinance to provide transportation and sign the intergovernmental agreement which will allow Shelby County to administer the grant on behalf of Moultrie County.

Ms. Beck-Marts handed to each board member a copy of fiscal year 2023 statistics to review. She further stated the grants for this year are the same as last year; for 5311 (federal) \$45,953.00 and State max drawdown \$1,697,700.00. The drawdown means match; they have to spend the money to get reimbursed and they have to have match to draw it down. The match is generated through service contracts, other grants, and they are allowed to use the 5311 funding as well. (A copy of the statistics is attached.)

CIPT only had 17 denied rides, equating 0.22%. These rides were denied because they may have been requested during peak times or too far out of County for pick up.

Last year they were able to start a specialized dispatch position, Medical Transportation Coordinator, in their office through a grant. This person coordinates medical transportation with riders’ medical providers to get the rider to their appointment

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and help with riders' billing. The grant is now expended but are looking to continue the position.

Mr. Voyles asked if the educational rides are free to the family? Ms. Marts stated it costs the family \$20.00 per month for a discounted monthly pass.

Mr. Wilhelm asked if there is existing funding from Moultrie County for the match that with the Ordinance that goes into this program. Ms. Marts explained there is no match source from Moultrie County.

Mr. Buxton asked if they are having any problems getting new fleet units since the State is slow to decommission. Ms. Marts stated they had been; however they did recently receive an award letter from the consolidated vehicle program informing CIPT they are getting new vehicles, she believes 14 medium duty vehicles (14 passenger), six mini vans, and one super duty bus (26 passenger). However, the production and timeline on delivery is still up in the air.

Mr. Wilhelm asked for clarification on the match and non-match funds. Ms. Marts explained in more detail.

Mr. Voyles moved to approve an Ordinance to Provide for Public Transportation and Intergovernmental Agreement for fiscal year 2015, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Wilhelm seconded the motion. Mr. Voyles stated for the rest of the board to think about that if and when CIPT goes to talk to the school about Moultrie County, he would love to participate especially on the educational side. Ms. Marts will pass on the information. After a short about of discussion on the education transportation, roll call vote was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Unfinished Business: None

Appointments by Chair: Mr. Voyles moved to appoint David Bowers as Trustee of the Lovington Fire Protection District for a term to begin retroactive to May 1, 2023, upon the filing of the Bond of Trustee at the office of the County Clerk, and to expire on April 1, 2026. Mr. Roe seconded the motion. There being no discussion, roll call vote was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no. (Ordinance No.: 24-01; Book 2; pages 67 – 70)

Mr. Voyles gave the first reading to appoint the following to the Board of Review: Robert L. Elder, Steven W. Mayberry, and Dr. Gregory Mauck, terms to begin June 1, 2024, and to expire May 31, 2026.

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NEW BUSINESS

STANDING COMMITTEES

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (Chair: Vander Burgh)

Meeting: February 13, 2024.

Mr. Phelps moved to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2024. Mr. T. Graven seconded the motion. Mr. Buxton inquired why Georgia England is working in the Clerk's office, Ms. Qualls explained she is training a new person on Tax Extensions. Mr. Buxton wanted to know if that isn't something the association can do. Ms. Qualls stated not to her knowledge. There being no further discussion, roll call vote was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Phelps moved to approve all claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. There being no discussion, roll call vote was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

Mr. Phelps moved to increase the Moultrie County Animal Control Spay & Neuter Voucher Program payment from \$60.00 to \$120.00 for each spay or neuter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Treasurer Helmut explained that she and J.P. of Animal Control did a study on where the county is on costs associated with spays and neuters. They found that the county is losing money on 9 out of 10 spays/neuters and other requirements. The voucher program started in 2016 with \$10,000.00 and today has around \$8,000.00. The average spay/neuter costs \$115.00 so at a charge of \$60.00, we are depleting the funds. Increasing the fee will put donations back into the program and cover the full amount of the spay/neuter. With no further discussion, roll call was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY (Chair: T. Graven)

Meeting: February 7, 2024.

Mr. Tyler Graven stated the committee met and would like to have discussion and possible action to proceed with programming with ADG to possibly find a long-term solution to the storage and space shortage in the courthouse. The architect came to the steering committee meeting to discuss the programming. ADG will come into the courthouse to measure every part of the building, talk to the department heads to see what can be done in their office for space, see if an annex is needed, etc.

After some discussion and questions by the board members, Mr. T. Graven moved to proceed with programming by ADG Architecture and Design Group, LTD to help find a long-term plan to address storage and office space concerns for the County in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00. Mr. Wilhelm seconded the motion. After some additional questions, roll call was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no.

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ROAD AND BRIDGE (Chair: Voyles)

Meeting: February 1, 2024.

Mr. Voyles moved to approve the Resolution Appropriating Funds for Section 21-00081-01-DR. Mr. K. Graven seconded the motion. There being no discussion, roll call was taken; the motion carried 7 yes, 0 no. (Resolution No.: 24-01; Book 6, page 34)

PLANNING, ZONING and LAND USE (Chair: Phelps)

Meeting: February 7, 2024.

Mr. Phelps stated the committee did meet but have no motions. But mentioned coming up, they have discussions on a resolution on carbon storage and battery storage to be tied in with wind & solar.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE (Chair: Phelps)

Meeting: February 7, 2024.

No motions. Mr. Phelps stated they are still tracking the effects of the Safe-T Act. There are many failures to appear. The Circuit Clerk was at the last meeting to share how the Safe-T Act is affecting us, we received about one-half of the fines in January 2024 compared to January 2023. The County will need to look at how to fund some of the items paid out of those fines. State's Attorney Weaver stated some of that is the Safe-T Act and some of that is new legislation has allowed fee waivers for any criminal defendant who qualifies for a public defender. These fees being waived are also having a negative impact on the counties. One area legislation hasn't touched, is traffic fines. Now, there is legislation proposing the fees associated with traffic fines also be waived which will be another large hit for counties.

AS NEEDED COMMITTEES

None.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wilhelm gave an update on the childcare initiative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120/2

No executive session.

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COMMENTS

BOARD

Mr. Phelps asked that everyone turn in their employee handbook acknowledgements to Linda by tomorrow.

Mr. Phelps stated the next thing for next month he would like the board to consider is making Moultrie County NOT a sanctuary county and maybe having something in writing to keep from draining the resources from our taxpayers.

Mr. Buxton shared he attended core training put on by the pipeline. Encouraged everyone to look for the video “3 Seconds” on YouTube. He learned the gas companies are there to help.

Mr. Roe informed the board as of December the Head Start program has no teachers so they are shut down until they can find teachers. It is unknown if the program will be able to start back up.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Stephanie Helmuth informed the board that mobile home taxes will be going out before the board meets again.

Assistant State’s Attorney Elizabeth Dobson gave an explanation and update on the Zillow v. Moultrie County and Moultrie County Assessment Office FOIA lawsuit. This is a public case which anyone can look at. The case number is 2021MR-37. If you have questions, they can be directed to the State’s Attorney’s office. Lori Barringer cannot answer questions because the case is still pending.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

None.

PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURN: Mr. Voyles asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. T. Graven moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. K. Graven. Via voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Linda S. Qualls,
Moultrie County Clerk

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**CENTRAL ILLINOIS PUBLIC TRANSIT
MOULTRIE BOARD REPORT
FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

FY25 Shelby Grant amounts: 5311 (Federal) \$45,953
DOAP (State) \$1,697,700 max drawdown

FY23 Stats:

Units	7,651		
Unduplicated Riders	80		
Denied Rides	17 (0.22%)		
Average Rides per Day	30		
Trip Purpose:			
Business	83	Education	3,971
Employment	2,822	Nutrition	108
Shopping	283	Social	75
Medical	266	Other	43

Medical Transportation Coordinator – a new position created last year in a partnership with the Effingham County Health Department and the ARISE Grant. This position serves as a specialized dispatcher that can assist riders with coordinating their medical appointments with transportation availability and assist with Medicaid approvals and billing issues.

Medical transports first year of position = 378

Medical transports prior year = 93

Position resulted in 306% increase in medical transport units.

Recently became a provider for MTM, a Medicaid Managed Care Organization. This addition, along with our previous Medicaid and Modivcare contracts, will be used to keep this position funded.