

DECEMBER 15, 2022

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

St. Clair County Board Meeting



SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 15, 2022

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Call to Order
4. Roll Call by Laura Kaemmerer, Elections Supervisors, County Clerk's Office;
Present – 27; Present; Absent – 1
Absent – Mr. Reeb (The Chairman noted that Mr. Reeb is excused.)
5. Public Participation- None
6. Reports & Communications from the Chairman
7. Comments by the Chairman
Executive Session – Purchase or Lease of Real Property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5))
Motion to go into executive session at 7:02 p.m.
B. Allen – made
CJ Baricevic – seconded
M/C - RC - Unanimous

Motion to return to regular session at 7:09 p.m.
CJ Baricevic – made
H. Hollingsworth – seconded
M/C - RC - Unanimous
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee
 1. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Belleville Concerning Property Acquisition

Motion to Approve 8-a-1
M. Crawford – made
B. Allen – seconded

Discussion: Mr. Cockrell wouldn't expect anyone in this room to do this deal with their own money or let alone my own money. Mr. Cockrell doesn't think the taxpayers of St. Clair County should do this.

Mr. Dawson expressed he agrees with Mr. Cockrell. Mr. Dawson has no concern legal aspects of this and thinks Mr. Hoerner is a great attorney. Mr. Dawson is worried about the role of government in the private industry. Mr. Dawson mentioned the list of scheduled events and the role that the government would play into these events.

Mr. Kern stated the purpose of this is to provide for a site should there be a disaster in St. Clair County. Mr. Kern said that we found out during the pandemic and searched for sites. Mr. Kern said that this was the only suitable site to do a mass incident exercise which really wasn't an exercise, but a mass incident in handling that amount of people. Mr. Kern said that the business model just helps out with the bottom line with the Fairgrounds. Mr. Kern said when that takes place it will be revenue that will help provide the purpose of buying the Fairgrounds, which is to preserve it in case of a need because of a disaster. Mr. Kern shared that this is the whole reason he is up here, and all the members are here; if there would be a disaster tomorrow if the Fairgrounds isn't there where would take 1,000 or 1500 or 500 people if a disaster would hit any city in the county. Mr. Kern said we have seen more incidents like tornados and flooding take place. Mr. Kern stated this provides the opportunity to fulfil our duty as a county which is to protect our people in the event of a disaster. Mr. Kern stated that the business model again helps us with the bottom line and keeps things moving such as the County Fair which could come back and would be an important educational tool for the County to have people get together to understand all the great things that go on in the county. Mr. Kern said that we would be making application with the state to get the funding restored and get St. Clair County put back on the list to receive County Fair funding. Mr. Kern expressed that this would get things to be busier at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Kern said that the purposes of a business model is to operate as many weeks and weekends as possible, but at the end of the day we will always know that there is a place should something terrible happen we would have a place to house people.

Ms. Gruberman asked if other counties owned their fairgrounds. Mr. Kern responded that a lot of counties do. Mr. Kern knows that Monroe County does and used their facilities to administer vaccinations. Mr. Kern said he believes many other counties do as well. Mr. Kern stated that a lot of people think we already own the fairgrounds.

Motion carries with 24 Ayes and 3 Nays with Mr. Cockrell, Mr. Dawson and Mr. Henning all voted nay.

9. Any other Pertinent Business

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by CJ Baricevic, seconded by J. Moll that the Board stand adjourned until Monday, December 19, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., for the December Meeting, and to convene in the County Board meeting Room B-564, 10 Public Square, Belleville, Illinois, when it will be the pleasure for all to attend. Motion carried unanimously.

**THOMAS HOLBROOK, COUNTY CLERK AND
EX-OFICIO CLERK OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE