

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

St. Clair County Budget Caucus



MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF
A BUDGET CAUCUS – November 30, 2022

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call to Order
3. Roll Call by Tom Holbrook, County Clerk; Present - 21; Absent 8 – Mr. Casey, Mr. Gomric, Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. McCall, Jr., Mr. Meile, Mr. Reeb, and Mr. Mr. Trentman, and Mr. Vernier
4. 2023 Budget Caucus

This is the 2023 Budget Caucus Meeting.

Chairman Kern stated that although this is for information and discussion only on the Budget and no action can be taken.

Chairman Kern called for questions or comments from the public on budget issues.

Sheriff Rick Watson was asking for an increase for the captain line since there are other positions in lower ranks who are making more money. Chairman Kern said that there were open positions in your budget if you wanted use money from the unfilled positions to take that. Sheriff Watson asked how he would do that when public bodies are telling him that he is understaffed. Chairman Kern said you have a big budget and that you find in your budget room to do what you want. Chairman Kern noted that there are a lot of people in your budget who make a lot of money including your Undersheriff in which he asked Sheriff Watson how much he makes. Sheriff Watson responded he wasn't sure of the exact amount. Chairman Kern mentioned that the Sheriff was getting a raise and making \$150,000. Sheriff Watson said that his raise was because of the State. Chairman Kern said that the raise was because of someone standing up here and the body in front of you.

Chairman Kern called for questions or comments from the County Board members on any budget issues.

Ed Cockrell asked for more information on the amount of unrestrictive ARPA Funds that the County has. Chairman Kern referred to the Chief Deputy-Auditor

Jackie Krummrich. Ms. Krummrich said there is between 7-8 million dollars of unrestrictive that can be used for general governmental operations and originally, we had \$10,000,000. The other \$42,000,000 is highly restrictive funds which must be tied to COVID related operations. Chairman Kern said when we submit for lost revenue and some bills that we paid that money then becomes unrestrictive. Most of the restrictive money is for emergency services and COVID related. Water Project that was mentioned for Cahokia Heights is one of the projects that would be covered. Mr. Cockrell thanked Ms. Krummrich for clarification on the amounts of ARPA funds.

Mr. Cockrell asked since there was already a Public Hearing about the budget is this meeting reflecting the changes that have been made since then first hearing. Chairman Kern stated Jackie Krummrich submitted the changes, and this is reflected on the website. Chairman Kern said that this is the purpose for people to let us know if something needs to be changed and we thank those who let us know and for taking the time to look through the budget which is not something easy to do.

Mr. Cockrell stated that the final extension was approximately \$44,800,000 final tax extension levied by the County. He assumes this amount would go up a couple million after the abatement next spring. Mr. Cockrell asked for future consideration to keep the abatement the same amount since there was an increase in the budget to allow for the taxation to stay the same as it was last year. Chairman Kern responded saying that sometimes the assessed valuation goes up, new houses are built which means new areas to patrol, new services to provide. However, everyone's taxes will go down in the county if we stay under. Mr. Cockrell is just asking that we stay at that amount.

Mr. Cockrell brought up health insurance and the rising cost of it. Mr. Cockrell stated that he thought in 2016 that an ordinance was passed that took away the option for board members to have health insurance. Mr. Cockrell said that even though we passed this half the County Board members still have health insurance even after being elected and reelected multiple times. Mr. Cockrell questioned how this is happening still. Chairman Kern answered members are offered health insurance. Mr. Cockrell asked why if there was an ordinance passed eliminating this benefit. Chairman Kern said that is not what the ordinance says. Mr. Cockrell said that's exactly what the ordinance says. Chairman Kern restated that County Board Members are offered health insurance. Mr. Cockrell asked all members. Chairman Kern said all County Board Members that didn't come back and double dip after they got their pension. Mr. Cockrell asked again if all County Board Members received the option for health insurance. Ms. Moll asked if they paid for the health insurance. Chairman Kern answered that they pay a portion of the health insurance just like all employees. Mr. Cockrell asked if there was something then that replaced the ordinance that took place in 2016. Mr. Cockrell then said he would check out the ordinance to make sure it was correct.

Sheriff Watson asked mental health professionals in the contract with Wexford. Chairman Kern stated that Monday night at the County Board Meeting that the

contract passed. Sheriff Watson asked if the extra person was in there. Chairman Kern referred to Jackie Krummrich. Jackie Krummrich answered that it is not in the budget because we found out about it after the fact, but that budget is a flexible budget based on the income that you bring in. Sheriff Watson asked what budget. Ms. Krummrich answered the Commissary budget. Ms. Krummrich explained what's in the book under Commissary was not known at the time the budget was written, but since it is a flexible budget, it can be increased if the cash is available and based on the needs that the jail has. Chairman Kern stated the County Board voted on it Monday night and the professional will be available for Wexford to hire. Sheriff Watson asked out of Commissary. Chairman Kern answered yes. Sheriff Watson said you can't do that. Chairman Kern stated that Mr. Knapp thought that it was. Mr. Knapp said at the Finance Committee he would present it to the Sheriff and no way committed to it. Chairman Kern responded it is for prisoner welfare. Sheriff Watson stated that the County Board can't dictate that it comes out of there. Chairman Kern indicated that if you want the position that he thinks it is a good thing to be paid out of Commissary fund and that it is Sheriff's choice to do so.

5. **Adjournment.**

Motion to Close the Budget Caucus and Adjourn

R. Mosley, Jr.- made

CJ Baricevic - seconded

M/C RC - Unanimous

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

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE



MARK A. KERN
CHAIRMAN

ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD

10 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM B-561, BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62220-1623

(618) 825-2203 • FAX: (618) 825-2740

District 5
LONNIE MOSLEY
VICE-CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS

District 1
ROBERT L. ALLEN, JR.

District 2
HARRY HOLLINGSWORTH

District 3
WILLIE L. DANCY

District 4
ROBERT A. WILHELM

District 6
ROY MOSLEY, JR.

District 7
ED COCKRELL

District 8
KEN EASTERLEY

District 9
C. RICHARD VERNIER

District 10
CJ BARICEVIC

District 11
JERRY J. DINGES

District 12
SUSAN GRUBERMAN

District 13
STEPHEN E. REEB

District 14
ROBERT J. TRENTMAN

District 15
JOHN COERS

District 16
DAVID B. LANGFORD

District 17
STEVEN GOMRIC

District 18
MATT SMALLHEER

District 19
JANA MOLL

District 20
KEVIN DAWSON

District 21
ANDY BITTLE

District 22
MICHAEL O'DONNELL

District 23
RICHIE MEILE

District 24
MARTY T. CRAWFORD

District 25
CURTIS McCALL, JR.

District 26
SCOTT TIEMAN

District 27
KENNETH G. SHARKEY

District 28
SCOTT GREENWALD

District 29
RICK CASEY

SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR THE PURPOSE OF A BUDGET CAUCUS

November 30, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call to Order
3. Roll Call
4. 2023 Budget Caucus
5. Adjournment