

County Commissioner's Record No. 33

State of Illinois)
 SS April 28th, 2020
County of Union)

I. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance are Kent Pitts, Bobby Toler Jr., Dale Foster, Max Miller & David Gould.

II. Call Meeting to Order

The Union County Board of Commissioners met for a special meeting in the Union County Courthouse Community Room by zoom conference at 10:00am. County Chairman Max Miller called the meeting to order.

III. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes

03/13/2020 – Mr. Gould made the motion to approve the minutes from 02/28/2020 and Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts	YES
Bobby Toler Jr.	YES
Dale Foster	YES
Max Miller	YES
David Gould	YES
Motion Passed	

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Tim Denny, City of Jonesboro Attorney, had questions about the dispatch agreement for the County Board.

- 1. Mr. Denny: Why did the County decide to ask the municipalities vote and sign the agreement before they discuss it?**

Mr. Miller: Each board member discussed dispatch with the County Administrator during the budget process. The board acknowledged being in agreement when the additional revenue was added to the County's budget adopted in December 2019. All board members voted yes to include the additional revenue in the budget.

- 2. Mr. Denny: Why did the County ask the municipalities vote and sign the agreement before they vote on it?**

Mr. Miller: The County drafted the agreements and sent them to the municipalities in February. Since we were unsure who would elect to participate, we asked that the municipalities vote and sign the agreements and send back to us for final signature. Signing all agreements ahead of time before knowing who wanted to participate didn't seem necessary. However, since you have asked that we vote and sign first the agreements have been put on today's agenda for approval.

3. **Mr. Denny: The City was told the county will save money by reduction in force by eliminating dispatchers if the municipalities do not sign on. Since they must have at least one dispatcher on duty 24/7 and a second dispatcher on duty during peak times, how do they eliminate a dispatcher(s) and save money?**

Mr. Miller: If municipalities decide not to participate the County's dispatch call volume will decrease. As a result, there may not be a need to keep 2 dispatchers on duty at the same time. However, this decision will be made at a later date when we see what happens to call volume and determine operational needs.

4. **Mr. Denny: Does the County's collective bargaining agreement allow for them to reduce the number of dispatchers?**

Mr. Miller: There is no minimum staffing in the Sheriff's collective bargaining agreement

5. **Mr. Denny: Will the money the municipalities pay be spent on dispatch and/or the sheriff's department or will they County just reduce the Sheriff's budget by the amount paid for dispatch and use the money for general fund items?**

Mr. Miller: The cost of dispatch is what we are asking the municipalities to pay for. The money will be deposited into the General Fund as this is where 100% of dispatch costs are paid from.

6. **Mr. Denny: In light of the need for growing cooperation among law enforcement/first responders due to budget crunches for all government entities what does the county think about a broader cooperation between the County and the municipalities?**

Mr. Miller: I don't understand this question. I would like to think what we are doing here is a broader cooperation with the municipalities.

7. **Mr. Denny: Who drafted the contract proposed by the County to the City?**

Mr. Miller: The County Administrator drafted the agreements provide to everyone in February. However, she used the same agreement that was drafted for Anna back in 2014. I am unsure who drafted that agreement.

8. **Mr. Denny: Is the County willing to meet to negotiate the terms and/or price of the agreement or is this a take it or leave it proposition?**

Mr. Miller: As mentioned in the meeting in February and again at your board meeting in March the terms of the agreements are non-negotiable. The County already made every effort to ensure timely notification was received before municipal budgets were adopted and have built numerous discounts into the model. The amounts were discounted 28% and then another 35% discount was given for FY2020; thereby effectively only asking for approximately 47% of actual costs. We could have asked for the full amount and negotiated but the County decided it was best to not waste that time and go ahead and offer the discounted amounts from the beginning.

9. **Mr. Denny:** The County has provided dispatch services in cooperation with the City of Jonesboro for over 40 years. This issue was first presented to Jonesboro in February, does the county have the legal authority and ability to unilaterally terminate an agreement regarding public safety on such short notice.

Mr. Miller: Yes, the County has the authority to change the agreement. The agreement would not terminate until June 30th which is 4 ½ months' notice.

Steven Halderman, City of Jonesboro Alderman, asked if the decisions on the dispatch agreements could be delayed until the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and the city councils could all meet in person to discuss these issues, anything short of that will be rushed and will betray the faith of the citizens in local government. I've also questioned commissioner's ideology on assessing fees onto the communities before on voting those fees themselves?

Mr. Miller: I consider these questions already answered by the questions from Mr. Denny.

V. New Business

A. Approval of Payment of Bills.

Mr. Gould made the motion to pay the bills, **Mr. Pitts** seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts YES

Bobby Toler Jr. YES

Dale Foster YES

Max Miller YES

David Gould YES

Motion Passed

B. Ordinance declaring it is necessary and convenient to transfer ownership of property from the City of Anna, Illinois to the County of Union, Illinois to improve said property

Mr. Miller stated this was relating to the new Animal Control building. **Mr. Klingemann, States Attorney,** stated that it was necessary to pass this before moving on any further in the process. **Mr. Miller** than made the motion to pass the ordinance and **Mr. Toler** seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts YES

Bobby Toler Jr. YES

Dale Foster YES

Max Miller YES

David Gould YES

Motion Passed

C. Intergovernmental agreement by and between the County of Union, Illinois and the City of Anna, Illinois regarding the provisions of communication and dispatch services

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement and **Mr. Gould** seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts YES

Bobby Toler Jr. YES

Dale Foster YES

Max Miller YES

David Gould YES

Motion Passed

D. Intergovernmental agreement by and between the County of Union, Illinois and the City of Jonesboro, Illinois regarding the provisions of communication and dispatch services

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement and Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts	YES
Bobby Toler Jr.	YES
Dale Foster	YES
Max Miller	YES
David Gould	YES
Motion Passed	

E. Intergovernmental agreement by and between the County of Union, Illinois and the Village of Cobden, Illinois regarding the provisions of communication and dispatch services

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement and Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts	YES
Bobby Toler Jr.	YES
Dale Foster	YES
Max Miller	YES
David Gould	YES
Motion Passed	

F. Intergovernmental agreement by and between the County of Union, Illinois and the Village of Dongola, Illinois regarding the provisions of communication and dispatch services

Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement and Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts	YES
Bobby Toler Jr.	YES
Dale Foster	YES
Max Miller	YES
David Gould	YES
Motion Passed	

XI. Adjournment

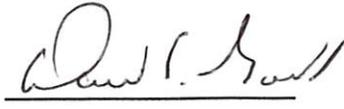
Mr. Miller made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

Kent Pitts	YES
Bobby Toler Jr.	YES
Dale Foster	YES
Max Miller	YES
David Gould	YES

Motion Passed 10:19am



Bobby Toler Jr



David Gould



Kent Pitts



Max Miller



Dale Foster



Lance Meisenheimer