

**Legislative and Public Safety Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2023 5:00 PM**  
**Jackson County Sheriff's Office Conference Room**

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**Call to Order**

*(5:00pm)*

*Present: Snyder, Battrell, Comparato, Knust, Miller*

*Absent: Lister, Mueller*

*Also present: Ben Killman, Bart Hagston, Kenton Schafer, Joni Bailey, Yara Hindi, Andrew Erbes*

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**Approval of Minutes**

I. 2023-474 Approval of September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

*A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Knust, to approve the September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.*

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**Animal Control**

II. 2023-475 Animal Control Monthly Update

*The County Administrator updated the committee on Animal Control, noting that 2024 Rabies Tags had been ordered and that Animal Control was working with the Humane Society on several issues.*

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**Heath Department & Solid Waste**

III. 2023-476 Jackson County Health Department

*Director Hagston reported the following:*

- *The Health Department has experienced significant demand for multiple vaccines recently. From Sep 1-Oct 11, 917 doses of flu vaccine were administered, and 611 doses of updated Covid vaccine were given over that same period. From Aug 1-Oct 11, 314 doses of Abrevxy were administered. This is the new RSV vaccine for those aged 60+ with certain health conditions. JCHD is carrying regular and high-dose (age 65+) flu vaccine, and updated Pfizer Covid vaccines for people aged 6 months and older. JCHD's order for the updated Moderna Covid vaccine has been delayed by the manufacturer. JCHD is administering vaccine at the health department each weekday by appointment, and is also holding several off-site flu vaccination clinics.*
- *JCHD continues to provide free colorectal cancer screening kits for those 45-75 years old. These are simple, at-home kits and JCHD runs the tests in-house. Over 5,200 colorectal cancer cases were reported in Illinois in 2020.*

- The community health assessment survey was recently completed, with 564 responses. JCHD appreciates those who helped spread the word about the survey. This data will be utilized by the Jackson County Healthy Communities Coalition as it helps JCHD determine the priority health issues for the next five-year community health improvement plan, which is due Summer 2024.
- JCHD has concluded trapping & testing of mosquitoes for West Nile virus (WNV) for the year. This year JCHD did not have any mosquito pools test positive for WNV, but did get notified by the state that a horse had tested positive recently. WNV transmission mostly occurs from June-September during the hottest months of the year.

#### IV. 2023-477 Solid Waste Enforcement

Director Hagston reported the following:

##### **Activities Completed - 9/11/23 – 10/10/23**

- 1 SIRLI landfill inspection
- 2 new citizen complaints
- 4 Field Visits conducted for new and ongoing open dumping and burning files.
- 1 Sites put into general compliance
- 2 Advisory letters sent for property clean-up

#### V. 2023-478 Solid Waste Fund Update

No update was given this month.

#### VI. 2023-479 Recycling Program

Director Hagston reported the following:

##### **Activities Completed for General Recycling Programming –9/11/23 – 10/10/23**

- Participated in the IL Food Scrap & Composting Coalition Mtg. 9/11 - Policy Committee Mtg. 9/21
- Presented to environmental awareness spotlight at the IDNR -Becoming an Outdoor Woman Conference at Touch of Nature.
- Presented an environmental awareness spotlight to the Carbondale Rotary Noon Club 9/20
- Participated in Carbondale Halloween 2023 Planning Committee Mtgs. 9/20 & 10/5 report out on Pumpkin Smash planning.
- Participated in the Pumpkin Smash Planning committee mtgs. The Pumpkin Smash event is Saturday, November 4, 9am – Noon at SIU Farms, 2704 Union Hill Rd, Carbondale, IL.
- Hosted the Annual Shred/Med Day Event – October 14, 2023 8 am – Noon. There were 204 participants, 119 pounds of medication were collected and 21 patients were seen for immunizations.
- Collaborated with Greater Egypt Regional Planning to plan and implement TWO Recycling and Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings on 9/26
- Presented an educational display at the Eco-Family Festival on 9/30

## **Emergency Management**

## **Ambulance Service**

#### VII. 2023-480 Payment of Ambulance Monthly Claims

A motion was made by Knust, seconded by Comparato, to approve payment of Ambulance

*Monthly Claims in the amount of \$77,186.40. The motion carried by unanimous vote.*

VIII. 2023-481 Director's Report

*Director Schafer reported the following:*

**Monthly Claims:** \$77,186.40

**Accounts Receivable Cash:** \$493,320.00

**Activity Report:** 978 patient contacts

**Other Information:**

*The department continues to struggle to try to recruit and retain licensed paramedics. ICMA (International City/County Management Association) published an article this month. As indicated, this is a national crisis resulting in alternative staffing models to maintain minimum staffing and continued acceptable response times.*

*We have had some recent success hiring EMTs and we continue the orientation process currently with 4. Although no decisions have been made yet, we have been working on extensive research on how an alternative model may impact our community. If the crisis continues, as we anticipate, we may need to make a recommendation for a temporary solution in the future.*

*The committee had a very long discussion regarding the Ambulance Department staffing and asked various questions from director Schafer regarding possible solutions.*

IX. 2023-482 Paramedic Training Reimbursement Program

*Director Schafer noted that this item was not ready for discussion at this time and that he hoped it would be ready by the full Board meeting.*

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## **Legislative**

X. 2023-483 Animal Control Ordinance Proposal

*The County Administrator commented that she would like the committee to take some time and review the DRAFT Animal Control Ordinance that was presented. She noted that Officer Killman was available to answer any questions. Officer Killman reviewed a few items that he wanted to point out before final decisions were made. The committee had a very lengthy discussion on the issue of Animal Control carrying a firearm, the training he would receive, and the potential liability it would pose for the County. Officer Killman answered many questions from the committee. ASA Bailey answered questions as well. The committee continued the discussion and discussed alternative possibilities. The County Administrator commented that she would check with the Property & Liability company for some answers.*

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## **State's Attorney**

*Ms. Bailey updated the committee on the items she has been working on for the county. She noted that for Ambulance she had been finalizing the Shawnee College Training Agreement, drafting the Paramedic training cost reimbursement agreement, and various other issues. Bailey noted that for Animal Control she had been working to rewrite the Animal Control Ordinance. She commented that for Highway she is waiting for conveyances concerning the Reed Station Road Completion Document and that she continues to review new legislation on solar and wind power sitting requirements. Bailey briefly mentioned the Paid Leave Act, commenting that she was working with Erbes and the County Administrator on options for the*

*County prior to January 1st.*

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## **Citizen Comments**

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## **Old Business**

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## **New Business**

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## **Executive Session**

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## **Adjourn**

*(6:42pm)*

*A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Knust, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.*