

Legislative and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:00 PM
Jackson County Sheriff's Office Conference Room

Call to Order

(5:00pm)

Present: Snyder, Battrell, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller

Also Present: Joni Bailey, Kenton Schafer, Ben Killman, Orval Rowe, Jan Phillips, Robert Burns, Patrick Horstmann, Bart Hagston, Andrew Erbes

Approval of Minutes

I. 2024-119 Approval of January 9, 2024 Minutes

A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Knust, to approve the January 9, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Communication

II. 2024-120 Zito Communication

The County Administrator Commented that the document in the meeting packet was letting Zito customers know of an increase in cable television charges. She wanted the committee to be aware in case they had constituents ask questions regarding the matter.

III. 2024-135 Organizational Chart

The County Administrator provided an updated organizational chart to the committee, noting that this included expanded sections of structure for better clarification of roles between the County Board and elected officials. The committee discussed the document briefly and asked a few questions. Snyder asked if the document could be provided in the full Board meeting packet for all Board members. The County Administrator noted that she would have it posted on the website as well.

Animal Control

IV. 2024-121 Animal Control Monthly Update

The County Administrator commented that the Animal Control officer was present at the meeting and could answer any questions they may have. She noted the monthly update in the meeting packet and pointed out that the most important thing was the fact that the Animal Control Officer was enrolled in a euthanasia class, which would be beneficial for the County. The committee discussed the topic briefly.

Heath Department & Solid Waste

V. 2024-122 Jackson County Health Department

Director Hagston reported the following:

The Health Department is planning for the impact of the eclipse on our operations. Just like the 2017 eclipse, we are planning for a significant increase that weekend of temporary food events that need licensed and inspected, and temporary campgrounds that must register and be inspected. We also plan to help JCEMA staff the Emergency Operations Center around the eclipse. We will soon be posting information to our website and doing a series of social media posts to help get information out related to food and campgrounds, as well as eye safety.

We will be opening up a small satellite office at the Eurma Hayes Center to help conduct sexual health outreach and testing. Our initial plan is to be open in the afternoons, Tue-Thu. We will be holding an open house there on March 19 from 2-6pm, and we are inviting other community partners to have information tables there that day, as well.

We are working to complete the community health improvement plan, which is due to the state every five years. The initial planning involved a community health assessment survey which we conducted last summer, and we recently sat down with our community partners from the Jackson County Healthy Communities Coalition to gain their feedback. In addition, we also are required every five years for the Board of Health to adopt a Strategic Plan for the Health Department, and that process is just now kicking off. These plans are due to IDPH by October.

VI. 2024-123 Solid Waste Enforcement

Director Hagston reported the following:

Activities Completed: 1/9/24 – 2/13/24

- 1 landfill inspection
- 4 new citizen complaints
- 1 new site opened
 - Issued a "Violation Notice" versus our typical "Administrative Citation Warning Notice". This is a different legal instrument available to us under EPA rules. Will possibly use this approach more in the future in our most egregious circumstances.
- 10 Field Visits conducted at new or ongoing open dumping / burning files.
- 0 Sites now found in general compliance
- 3 Advisory letters sent for property clean-up

VII. 2024-124 Solid Waste Fund Update

Director Hagston reported the following:

Current Month Solid Waste Fund Transactions

Transfers: \$3,674.21-Shredding, Medical Waste and Trash Bills for County agencies for January 2024

Interest: \$3,931.69-Interest for January 2024

Deposits: \$93,132.22-Tipping Fees

\$105,305 Reimbursement to Solid Waste Fund owed from Health Insurance

Current Month Household Hazardous Waste Fund Transactions

Transfers: \$0

Interest: \$1,257.64

Deposits: \$50,000

Host Fee Deposited

Deposits: \$73,332.46

VIII. 2024-125 Recycling Program

Director Hagston reported the following:

Activities Completed for County Recycling Program: 1/9/24 – 2/13/24

- Received funding from IL EPA to support a new residential sharps collection program within the county. Program launch in late March 2024.
 - Planning for the Spring Shred/Med Day event in April 2024, date TBA soon.
 - Held a Solid Waste Planning Advisory Committee Meeting 2/6 in collaboration with Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission. Promoted via news release & social media.
 - Collaborating with Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission to finalize and distribute Solid Waste and Recycling surveys to all municipalities. Received additional planning grant funds to support planning and outreach education efforts.
 - Attended meeting with Loren Gray, General Manager, for CRC Recycling (Southern Recycling Center) 2/9.
 - Participated in the IL Food Scrap and Composting Coalition (IFSCC) Meeting 1/18, Illinois Product Stewardship Council policy committee meeting 1/16, USEPA Tools & Resources webinar: Food Scraps 1/17.
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Emergency Management

EMA Coordinator Rowe provided a list of Emergency Planning Exercises that have been completed for Eclipse 2024 to date. The committee discussed the Eclipse briefly. Rowe and Sheriff Burns answered questions from the committee.

Ambulance Service

IX. 2024-126 Payment of Ambulance Monthly Claims

A motion was made by Mueller, seconded by Comparato, to approve the payment of Ambulance monthly claims in the amount of \$52,778.43. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (7): Snyder, Battrell, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller

X. 2024-127 Director's Report

Director Schafer reported the following:

Monthly Claims: \$52,778.43

Accounts Receivable Cash: \$373,473.99

Activity Report: 1,104 patient contact reports

Other Information:

The Emergency Medical Responder training course has begun. We have 20 participants in the course. This course is limited to volunteer fire departments within our county that wish to provide Emergency Medical Responder service to their community. We value their service, and we support their participation as much as possible to allow the service to continue.

Planning is underway for the upcoming eclipse in April. We successfully planned and executed the 2017 response. This one is much easier. We anticipate extra staff strategically stationed in outlying communities within the county. We are currently working on deciding which locations would benefit our response time the most and we will contact those communities to request a cooperative partnership to allow our staff to use their fire station as a temporary station immediately prior to, and immediately following the event. We are also mindful that with the eclipse in early April the likelihood of a cloud covered rainy day is much more likely which would affect the number of visitors to the area and subsequently negate our biggest issue we encountered in 2017 which was traffic flow. We will finalize the plan as the event draws closer.

XI. 2024-136 Resolution 2024-xx A Resolution of the Jackson County Board Supporting HB3137 Amending IMRF Pension Code

Director Schafer reported the following information to the committee:

JCAS has been working with the Illinois State Ambulance Association to garner support for this bill which was introduced last year. It was suggested a resolution of support from our county board would carry substantial weight in trying to help gain support to pass this change. This would not add to any state pension or local municipal pension deficit. Each entity of local government would need to vote individually to participate in this change once the pension code is amended. This would not increase the property tax levy for IMRF because our department does not benefit from that levy, we pay our own member retirement. We estimate this would cost the department approximately \$80,000 more per year. IMRF 7.67% SLEP 11.75%

This change would help us recruit and retain our full-time employees. Some highlighted changes include:

Regular IMRF Tier 2

Full retirement no penalty age 62 with 35 years or 67 with less than 35 years.

SLEP Tier 2

Age 55 no penalty.

This change would also assist to recognize EMTs and Paramedics as the same essential public servants as Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters.

The committee discussed the proposed resolution with Schafer. A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Mueller, to recommend to the full Board the approval of Resolution 2024-xx A Resolution of the Jackson County Board Supporting HB3137 Amending IMRF Pension Code. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Legislative

XII. 2024-129 Ordinance 2024-xx An Ordinance Providing for Animal Control in Jackson County, Illinois

The committee discussed the DRAFT Animal Control Ordinance in detail with ASA Bailey, Animal Control Officer Killman, and the County Administrator. Each answered questions and reviewed the changes made from the original ordinance that were now included in the new DRAFT ordinance. Knust suggested that the DRAFT ordinance be moved to next month's meeting for final approval, allowing the committee to review the proposed changes. The committee agreed.

XIII. 2024-130 Ordinance 2024-xx Animal Control Fees Ordinance, Jackson County, Illinois
This item was discussed with the DRAFT Animal Control Ordinance. This item was moved to next month's meeting to allow the committee time to review the proposed changes and make any final suggestions.

XIV. 2024-131 Resolution 2024-xx Calling for Ceasefire in Gaza

The County Administrator commented that this resolution had been drafted by Board member Julie Peterson and had been based on requests from constituents in her district. The committee discussed the resolution in detail and came to the consensus that the County should not be weighing in on this type of issue. Snyder asked for a motion and no motion was made. The County Administrator noted that she would inform Peterson of the committee's decision.

State's Attorney

XV. 2024-128 State's Attorney Monthly Update

ASA Bailey updated the committee on what she is currently working on for the County, including items for Ambulance, Animal Control, Emergency Management, Highway, and various parliamentary matters. Please see the attached document in the meeting packet for more information.

Citizen Comments

Old Business

Knust asked for information from the State's Attorney's office regarding open cases that have not gone to trial since 2020. The committee members discussed the legality of the request in great detail and why it was being requested. They came to the consensus that if Knust wanted the information, she would need to FOIA the State's Attorney's office.

New Business

XVI. 2024-132 Animal Control Facility

This item was discussed in Executive Session. Once out of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Battrell, to approve the item discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (5) Snyder, Battrell, Comparato, Lister, Miller NO (2): Knust, Mueller

Executive Session

XVII. 2024-134 Executive Session under 2 (c) 5 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss Real Property

(6:50pm)

A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Mueller, to go into Executive Session under 2

(c) 5 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss Real Property. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (7) Snyder, Battrell, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller

Adjourn

(7:34pm)

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