



Rock Island County  
1504 Third Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
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Mission Statement: To Build the Future and Improve the Quality of Life For Our Community

## Public Works & Facilities Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2019

The Public Works and Facilities Committee met at the above date and time in the Conference room of the Administration Office on the second floor of the County Building, 1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island Illinois. Chairman Larry Burns called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

Minutes as follows:

### 1. Call to order and roll call

Members Present: L. Burns, E. Sowards, E. Langdon, J. Deppe, D. Adams, R. Westpfahl, R. Morthand (7)

Members Absent: B. Reagan (1)

Other Present: J. Boudi, G. Thorpe, J. Massa, J. Snider, C. Przybyla

### 2. Public Comment

Diane Alm: I live in Rock Island. I'm a member of the Rock Island Preservation Society and I'm here today to ask you to consider the proposal that was given in writing about the possibility of reconsidering your decision on the courthouse. The reason I'm speaking to this issue, about a year and a half ago I was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. And Sioux Falls is not exactly on the main thoroughfare. We happened to be driving through there; it was beautiful; the courthouse itself was beautiful. The museum itself was very interesting, but the courthouse was beautiful. At that point I realized I'd never seen our courthouse as beautiful as it is. Our courthouse is just as beautiful as there's was. They are nowhere. We're at the crossroads of America. Here we are on the Mississippi river and I-80. We have this beautiful building that could be turned into something historical, interesting, restaurants, and office buildings. It could be used for something else. We have people interested in doing this. It's not a big deal if you'd at least talk to us about what we could possibly provide for you for something to get people off I-80 instead of circling around it.

*R. Morthland is present at 8:32 AM*

Bridgett Ehrmann: I'm here again trying to come to more of these committee meetings because at the County Board a lot of times when we speak they say there's a process'. You have to come to the committee meeting and then this can be brought to the Board. We're doing that as well. She talked about the cultural value that it has to the community. At this point I'm much more concerned about the financial aspects and the fact we're being sued by Landmarks, Illinois. We really can't afford to be spending money on demolition. Just the fact that this is finally becoming something that people are aware of. I've had hundreds of hundreds of conversations with people that would like to be here and come to these meetings. I took some time off work and brought all of my kids. There's not other people that will take the time to do that but they say please go, please don't stop going. I'm taking them up on that and I'll keep talking about it. I'm speaking for the rest of the community that really can't make these meetings. Again, we've got investors that are interested; one of them here and several others. I don't know if you're aware. There seems to be a breakdown in communication. I'd like to bridge that breakdown in communication and make sure we're speaking to everybody at all the

committees this isn't an issue that's going to go away. If the courthouse gets torn down there'll continue to be litigation. I don't think the County needs that kind of negative press because we've got enough going on. Rock Island County needs a win; we really need this investment. We don't need a greenspace. I think we need to bring this up at the next County Board meeting. This is a very critical issue. I can't think of any other issue that reaches this level of importance, so thank you.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the June 10, 2019 Meeting

Motion to approve: D. Adams

2<sup>nd</sup>: E. Sowards

Voice vote

Motion carried

4. Reports to Committee

**GIS**

J. Boudi: This is the new aerial photography at the nuclear plant. Our previous photography was from 2012 vs the 2019 in the spring. This is what we're going to have County wide. The resolution is a huge upgrade as you can tell. The rocks next to the river there, The framing on the building; HVAC units. Huge improvement and a great tool besides GIS assessment purposes, farmland assessment. We'll be able to zoom in instead of people out in the field. That is in your packet. I emailed a link to what they have available online. That is just preliminary. The final deliverables probably won't be here until October. Tax parcel maps are almost done; sending out letters right now. 2020 census is ongoing. \$17250.00 in recorder fee revenue for June.

**Motion to approve: B. Westpfahl**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Morthland, E. Langdon**

**Voice Vote**

**Motion carried**

**Building and Zoning**

G. Thorpe: No ZBA cases this month. Total receipts 157 net revenue \$38,821. Estimated value just over 4 million. Activity was up compared to last year. YTD neck and neck. The only difference is a big check for fee in lieu stuff from the airport. That's money set aside. New houses 10-14 this year breakdown by township. Initial damage assessments from flooding have been completed. We're still doing detailed damage assessments. Campbell's island those are finally dry that we can actually get to. The Land Use planning committee meets Wednesday this week.

B. Westpfahl: Somebody missed something in Southwest Rock Island where there's a house falling off a cliff. What happened there?

G. Thorpe: It's in the city of Rock Island. It's a subdivision they did years ago.

B. Westpfahl: Did they build it too close?

G. Thorpe: I think it's one of those things where subsidence. The soil is too heavy, and its sliding down the hill. That whole Northside of the subdivision was that way. They stopped

people from building on it quite a few years ago. There were a couple houses built before they found out how big a problem is. It's amazing what happened to that house. It's not a good situation.

**Motion to approve: J. Deppe**

**2<sup>nd</sup>. D. Adams**

**Voice vote**

**Motion carried**

### **Highway Department**

J. Massa: Highway department started to mow a few weeks ago and the rain was a little behind. We've been dealing with erosion issues and trying to mow. Hopefully this month we can get started with culvert replacements. We share the paint machine for striping the edge lines machine with Whiteside and Henry Co.

R. Morthland: I understand we changed our mowing policies on the roadsides and matching the state. What I'm concerned is. Trees in our right of way. If we don't take them out soon, send crews out with chainsaws. Do we have a plan to go get those trees?

J. Massa: We do it in the winter time with crews in the chainsaws. That's the plan.

**Motion to Approve**

**R, Morthland**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: B. Westpfahl**

**Voice Vote**

**Motion carried**

### **County Building**

J. Snider; The budget input development is on course. Hope to have department's numbers in by the next few weeks. Probably the first week of August.

#### 5. Consider Highway Items

a. Discuss request to place State Law 3 Ft Minimum To Pass Bicycles on County Highways

J. Massa: Ride IL is a bicycle group with the QC bicycle group. Have more bicycle traffic. I did get some information. State's attorney liability.

The biggest thing that came out. It is a statute. The signs are up to us. We can decide where to Obligate to maintain it. They will even purchase the signs for us. IDOT they do limited to road segments or a history of bicycle crashes. Bi-State was able to give us two of them. One on Loud Thunder. Bicycle traffic. Heat map shaded red. Id like to try to get some better information to actually see if we should do this. They requested 8 or 9. I'd like to get some more information. BI-State is applying for a grant but I worked with IDOT. I want to have some data and information to out where they're needed. We would not be liable if we didn't place the signs.

Motion to table: J. Deppe

2<sup>nd</sup> E Sowards

Motion carried

b. Review and award of bids received Friday June 28, 2019

1. Roof restoration project Milan Yard

J. Massa: We had a bid opening for two items; Milan facility. We had two people pull claims and one bid. Clean it and coat it Stanley roofing. I recommend we go with that. I believe it

was put it in the 50s.

How many sq. feet

J. Massa; Roughly

L. Burns It was less than the figure?

Motion to approve; B. Westpfahl

2<sup>nd</sup> R. Morthland

Zuma Canoe Creek Levy Mowing

J. Massa: Legacy corps was the low bid. Each mowing will cost \$7320.

**Motion to approve the low bid; R. Morthland**

**2<sup>nd</sup>. B. Westpfahl**

**Voice Vote**

**Motion carried**

Federal agreement for the guardrail project. For just the engineering project. Not to exceed money is 1 million of federal money not to exceed and we're responsible; exact

**Motion to approve; D. Adams,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> B. Westpfahl**

**Motion carried**

Review and award

J. Massa; Replacing on 4 of the tandem trucks. We had a low quote from E. Iowa Tires. I'd like to go with that

Motion to approve the low bid. D Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>

,J. Deppe

Voice vote

Motion carried

Court services Adult probation

J. Snider; This is an item that his boiler need serviced with a new boiler and John worked with him as well RFP for that. I understand this goes to GHA and then Finance as well. It's pretty straightforward. He had a pretty good RFP

B. Westpfahl: Did he have anything like this in the budget or is this new money?

J. Snider: It wasn't specifically budgeted for Obviously

**Motion to approve: J. Deppe**

**2<sup>nd</sup>; E. Sowards**

**Motion carried.**

Committee member opportunity for brief comment (*no decisions will be made*)

R. Morthland: Mr. Chairman, Two items: What is the progress of temporary repairs to the roof of the courthouse to prevent its further decay?

L. Burns: I am not aware.

R. Morthland: The request has been made multiple times by members of the board in open session. Gosh, why do you keep trying to ruin it? Second: May we please place an item on the

agenda for a future meeting to review and discuss the settlement offer that has been made; it is only reasonable. Why are you all stalling? I mean come on.

B. Westpfahl: I agree with you. Let's take it to the Board. That Board has changed! This was done in July of last year. Get it back on the agenda.

R. Brunk: You gentlemen were briefed last month. I have not received a phone call from neither one of you gentlemen. I believe as far as any concerns about that briefing. If you'd like to discuss that further we can discuss. This matter is currently pending in litigation and public discussion needs to be kept to a minimum.

B. Westpfahl: When we hired this Administrator, Any business we had we were supposed to take it to the Administrator first. And I did call and talk to him about getting it on agenda. Now you want to change the protocol and we're supposed to call you. Make up your damned mind. Who is running this place? We hired him to do it.

R. Brunk: The process for the agenda has never changed.

R. Morthland: Alright, then what is it sir? Exactly, so then we all know and all hear and actually do something. It seems to be an impossibility members of the body to get items placed on the agenda unless they are in keeping with the leaderships plan.

R. Brunk: I did have conversation with Mr. Snider that Bob had stopped in. I am working through some stuff and wanted to discuss with you this morning. I'd rather have you contact me to discuss it. To have conversations to even know there is a concern would be a first step.

B. Westpfahl: You will from now on.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: B. Westpfahl

2<sup>nd</sup>. R. Morthland

The Public Works and Facilities adjourned at 9:05 AM.