

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS AUGUST 20, 2018

The meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Chairman Robert Elmore, Commissioner Delbert Wittenauer and Commissioner Vicki Koerber were present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Elmore.

Others present included County Clerk Dennis Knobloch, and Sheila Wetzler, along with Press Corps representatives Joe Leicht of the Monroe County Independent and Alan Dooley of the Waterloo Republic Times. Also present were Ron Schultheis and Jason Jones.

There were no public comments.

Aaron Metzger came to the meeting to discuss Highway Department business. He said the Kaskaskia Road project is complete except for the pavement marking. Mr. Metzger said work will possibly begin later this week on the Ames Road overlay, and he had to hire an outside engineer to assist with this project because of the amount of work currently underway at the Highway Department. He said striping of other County roads will take place later this fall according to his annual maintenance schedule. Mr. Metzger said he is making arrangements to purchase a new one-ton truck that was already included in last year's fiscal Highway Department budget. He said the right turn lane at Hanover Road has scored well, and he expected that funding may be secured to assist with this project. There was extensive discussion of the YMCA intersection and possible revisions there to improve safety.

Lisa Fallon and Brenda Hempen came to the meeting to discuss fees charged for civil cases in the Circuit Clerk's office. Ms. Fallon said the fees in that office have not been revised for many years, and it is now necessary to raise those fees to stay in line with other surrounding Counties, and to pay for staff time and effort in filing various forms and paperwork. She said for every fee they charge, the State outlines the minimum and maximum amount that should be charged. Ms. Fallon said she developed a revised fee schedule that includes some fees that were set at the minimum amount and some that were set at the maximum. Commissioner Wittenauer said he would like to see a list that includes these minimum and maximum amounts and how they relate to the newly revised schedule of fees. Motion was made by Commissioner Koerber with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer to approve and accept the revised civil case fee schedule for the Circuit Clerk's office. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION RE: CIRCUIT CLERK FEES

Resolution: 2018-70_____

WHEREAS, 705 ILCS 105/27.1a provides for the setting of fees in the Office of the Circuit Clerk;
and

WHEREAS, PA 098-1132 amends 705 ILCS 105/27.1a which states that the County Board, by resolution, sets the fees of the Office of the Circuit Clerk within the guidelines set forth in PA 098-1132.–

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Monroe County, Illinois to amend the fees in the Office of Circuit Clerk as follows:

(705 ILCS 105/27.1a) (from Ch. 25, par. 27.1a)

Sec. 27.1a. The fees of the clerks of the circuit court in all counties having a population of not more than 500,000 inhabitants in the instances described in this Section shall be as provided in this Section. In those instances where a minimum and maximum fee is stated, the clerk of the circuit court must charge the minimum fee listed and may charge up to the maximum fee if the county board has by resolution increased the fee. Filing fees are to collected at the time of filing a court case in Monroe County IL.

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court Clerk of Monroe County and the Monroe County Board have determined that they wish to be subject to the increase of Monroe County Court fees as outlined on attached spreadsheet;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS that the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County shall collect the increased Court fees effective October 1, 2018 or at time of case management integration.

DATED: this 20th day of August , 2018.

Robert Elmore, Chairman
Monroe County Board

ATTEST:

Monroe County Clerk
Dennis Knobloch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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August 20, 2018

Case and Fee Name	TOTAL	Clerk	Court	Automation	Law Library	Judicial Security	Document Storage	Clerk Op Add On	Foreclosure Prevention	Abandoned Res Prop	FPP Graduated Fund	Access to Justice	E-Business Fee
Adoption (AD):	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00											
Chancery (CH):													
Mortgage Foreclosure													
Tier III	\$ 366.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Tier II	\$ 566.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 70.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Tier I	\$ 816.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Non-Residential	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Non-Foreclosure	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Divorce (D):													
Filing Fee	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Uncontested	\$ 423.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00					\$ 4.00	\$ 9.00
Eminent Domain (ED):													
Filing Fee	\$ 171.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Family (F):													
Filing Fee	\$ 146.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Uncontested Family	\$ 303.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00					\$ 4.00	\$ 9.00
Law (L):													
Filing Fee	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Law Magistrate (LM) Non-Eviction:													
Filing Fee (\$10,000-\$15,000)	\$ 181.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (15,000.01-\$49,999.99)	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00

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Law Magistrate (LM)													
Eviction:													
Filing Fee (Poss. Only &/or Rent under \$15,000)	\$ 156.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Poss. & Rent over \$15,000)	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Confession of Judgment under \$1,500)	\$ 156.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Confession of Judgment \$1,500.01-\$15,000)	\$ 221.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Confession of Judgment over \$15,000.01)	\$ 306.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee (Possession Only)	\$ 156.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee (\$1-\$1,499.99)	\$ 136.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee (\$1,500-\$15,000)	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Miscellaneous Remedy (MR):													
Filing Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 136.00	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee with Jury Demand	\$ 316.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee with Jury Demand	\$ 286.00	\$ 185.00	\$ -	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Municipal Corporation													
Filing Fee	\$ 266.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00

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Probate (P):													
Filing Fee (Decedent's Estate under \$15,000)	\$ 246.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 95.00			\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Decedent's Estate over \$15,000)	\$ 356.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 95.00			\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Heirship Alone)	\$ 146.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Petition to Sell Real Estate)	\$ 156.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Guardianship of the Person Only)	\$ 126.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Guardianship of the Estate or Person and the Estate under \$15,000)	\$ 146.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Guardianship of the Estate or Person and the Estate over \$15,000)	\$ 181.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Appearance Fee if Objecting	\$ 136.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Appearance Fee Contesting Will	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Certified Letters of Office	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00											
Jury Demand (Probate Only)	\$ 137.50	\$ 137.50											
Estate Claim:													
\$150-\$499.99	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00											
\$500-\$9,999.99	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00											
\$10,000 +	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00											

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Small Claims (SQ):													
Filing Fee	\$ 116.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (\$250.01-\$500)	\$ 126.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (\$500.01-\$2,500)	\$ 146.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (2,500.01-\$10,000)	\$ 181.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee (\$1-\$1,499.99)	\$ 136.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Answer Fee (\$1,500-\$10,000)	\$ 166.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Tax (T):													
Filing Fee	\$ 206.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Extra Parcels	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00											
Answer Fee	\$ 136.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Filing Fee (Objection & Sale in Error)	\$ 136.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00					\$ 2.00	\$ 9.00
Miscellaneous Fees:													
Alias Summons	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00											
Appeal:													
1-99 pages	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00											
			Plus Copies										
100-199 pages	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00											
			Plus Copies										
200+pages	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00											
			Plus Copies										
Authenticated Document (copies additional)	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00											
Certified Document (Judgment Only) (copies additional) (Non-SC or Eviction)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00											
Certified Document (all other documents) (copies additional) (Non-SC or Eviction)	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00											
Certified Mail (per envelope)	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00											

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Case and Fee Name	TOTAL	Clerk	Court	Automation	Law Library	Judicial Security	Document Storage	Clerk Op Add On	Foreclosure Prevention	Abandoned Res Prop	FPP Graduated Fund	Access to Justice	E-Business Fee
Change of Venue (transfer to another County)	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00											
Change of Venue (transfer from another County)	Filing Fee												
Citations, Garnishments and Wage Deductions:													
\$1-\$999.99	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00											
\$1,000-\$4,999.99	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00											
\$5,000 +	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00											
Copies:													
Page 1	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00											
Page 2-19	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50											
Page 20 +	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25											

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Case and Fee Name	TOTAL	Clerk	Court	Automation	Law Library	Judicial Security	Document Storage	Clerk Op Add On	Foreclosure Prevention	Abandoned Res Prop	FPP Graduated Fund	Access to Justice	E-Business Fee
Miscellaneous Fees continued:													
Counter-Claim or Joining as Third Party:													
If No Answer Fee previously paid	Filing Fee												
If an Answer or Appearance Fee has been Paid (Non-SC)	\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00											
Print-Out of Reports (i.e., child support history, docket sheet, etc.)	\$6/page												
Remands	\$ -	No Fee											
Returned Checks	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00											
Jury Demand (Non P or SC)	\$ 212.50	\$ 212.50											
Petition to Modify, Alter, Vacate any Judgment or Final Order:													
After 30 days from entry of Judgment	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00											
(No Fee on SC, Eviction and issues of spousal support or child support)	\$ -	\$ -											

This document was prepared by Lisa Fallon, Monroe County Circuit Clerk. All information contained in this document was derived using research by Circuit Clerk and Deputy Circuit Clerks. Research included Illinois Compiled Statutes, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Fees and Fines Manual, comparisons and discussions with similar counties in the 5th Circuit and geographical area, past resolutions, and discussions with case management system vendor, Goodin Associates. Every reasonable attempt has been taken to compile the data in this spreadsheet as accurately and completely as possible.

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Melanie Biffar of Southwestern Illinois WorkNet came to the meeting to discuss the services her office has available. This is the former Workforce Investment office, and is located on the lower level of the Courthouse just inside the Market Street entrance. Ms. Biffar said she covers five Counties – Monroe, St. Clair, Randolph, Clinton and Washington. She said even though she works here in Monroe County, the majority of the people she deals with are from St. Clair County, and that County includes 95% of the activity for this five-county region. Ms. Biffar said all of the programs offered by her office are income based. Some of the most used programs include reimbursement for education costs for nursing, driving semi-trucks and some of the programs offered at Ranken. Reimbursement can include actual costs of the education, and related expenses like mileage. Ms. Biffar said her office also deals with businesses that provide on-the-job training, and these businesses can be reimbursed from 50% - 75% of the hourly wage for qualified employees, for a maximum period of six months. Oak Hill is currently using this program for some of their beginning nursing employees.

The following Accounts Payable having been approved for payment, Commissioner Wittenauer moved that the same be allowed and that vouchers be issued against their respective funds of the County Treasurer for payment. Motion seconded by Commissioner Koerber, and so declared. All voting Aye, none Nay, and none Absent. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND

ADP, LLC	1,400.00
Americom	1,213.00
Axis Forensic Technology, Inc.	350.00
Blackbaud	1,799.00
Bob Barker Company Inc	401.36
Christopher G. Howell	42.52
Coast To Coast	677.13
Columbia Quarry Company	685.60
Culligan-Schaefer Water Centers	82.69
Gateway FS, Inc.	472.95
Gateway FS	214.43
Harrisonville Telephone Company	420.05
IL Office of State Fire Marshal	150.00
ILEAS	120.00
Illinois State Bar Association	325.00
Jarrell Mechanical	2,225.00
Jordan Burdg	202.50
K & D Printing	123.80
Kone Inc.	660.74
Leon Uniform Company Inc	984.90
Lisa Fallon	109.00
Locks A2Z	1173.10
Monroe County Electric Coop Inc	437.50
Monroe County Highway Fund	19,052.11
Motorola	1,427.00
Oak Hill	10,900.00
O'Reilly Auto Parts	29.63

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Petri Insurance Agency, Inc.	60.00
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc	280.00
Quality Collision, Inc.	1,224.00
Quill Corporation	110.04
Rahn's Hometown Auto Repair	128.75
Randy Rudloff	780.00
Reliable Sanitation Service, Inc.	5,388.62
Republic-Times LLC	155.92
Southern Illinois Video	175.00
Sure Shine Auto Wash	18.00
Tessco	114.20
Thomson Reuters-West Publishing Corp.	947.36
Total Eclipse	470.00
Truckvault	1,530.60
V "Red" Smith	20.00
Watson's Office City	182.60
Wayne's One Stop	98.16
Wex	5,873.30

AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND

Airgas USA, LLC	363.19
Andres Medical Billing, Ltd.	2,935.47
BJC Healthcare AR-Billing	844.57
Bound Tree Medical LLC	317.20
Carla Heise	125.00
Fitch & Associates, LLC	329.00
Mertz Ford	703.02
Motorola	396.00
Quality Collision Inc.	209.00
Wells Fargo Vendor Fin Serv	115.99
Zoll Medical Corporation	774.23

HEALTH TAX FUND

Culligan-Schaefer Water Centers	10.00
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HIGHWAY FUND

Al's Auto Waterloo	41.32
Ameren Illinois	37.23
Asphalt Sales and Products Inc.	940.00
Datatronics Inc.	188.00
Huels Oil Company	4,814.68
Illinois Assoc. Of County Engineers	100.00
Midwest Occupational Medicine Ltd	370.00
Monroe County Electric Cooperative	779.31
O'Reilly Auto Parts	150.57

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Paving Maintenance Supply Inc.	3,292.33
Quill	47.20
R.M. Webster & Associates Inc.	195.90
Reliable Sanitation Service Inc.	52.10
Roger's Redi-Mix Inc.	436.00
Schaeffer Mfg. Co.	296.58
The Home City Ice Company	213.00
V "Red" Smith Pest Control Inc.	25.00
Wedge Tire	214.37

COUNTY MOTOR FUEL

Columbia Quarry Company	1,640.41
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ROAD MOTOR FUEL

Columbia Quarry Company	5,703.71
Mike A. Maedge Trucking Inc.	51,355.94

RECORDER'S DOCUMENT FUND

Fidlar Technologies	1,887.36
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MATCHING FUND

Microsurfacing Contractors LLC	296,501.65
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ROAD DISTRICT BRIDGE FUND

Columbia Quarry Company	297.61
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G.I.S. FUND

Canon Solutions of America Inc	210.10
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The minutes from the August 6, 2018 regular meeting were approved upon motion by Commissioner Wittenauer, with a second by Commissioner Koerber. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Koerber with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer to approve the application for use of the Courtyard / Bandstand by the Porta Westfalica Committee for the 2019 Waterloo Porta Westfalica Fest to be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber to reappoint Brian Mehrstens to the Columbia Drainage and Levee District #3. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 18-71

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that Brian Mehrstens, 134 Adam Lane, Columbia, Illinois be reappointed to the **Columbia Drainage & Levee District #3** for a term of three years with term to commence on September 2, 2018 and term to expire on September 1, 2021 or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Wittenauer
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Koerber
Nay: None

Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber to reappoint Eugene H. Sensel to the Stringtown Drainage and Levee District #4. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 18-72

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that Eugene H. Sensel, 5405 VV Road, Prairie du Rocher, Illinois be reappointed to the **Stringtown Drainage & Levee District #4** for a term of three years with term to commence on September 2, 2018 and term to expire on September 1, 2021 or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Wittenauer
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Koerber
Nay: None

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Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber to reappoint Brian Edler to the Harrisonville Drainage and Levee District. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 18-73

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that Brian Edler, 2060 Outlet Road, Valmeyer, Illinois be reappointed to the **Harrisonville Drainage & Levee District** for a term of three years with term to commence on September 2, 2018 and term to expire on September 1, 2021 or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Wittenauer
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Koerber
Nay: None

Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber to reappoint Craig Ramsey to the Fish Lake Drainage and Levee District #8. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION 18-74

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that Craig Ramsey, 10834 Levee Road, Columbia, Illinois be reappointed to the **Fish Lake Drainage & Levee District #8** for a term of three years with term to commence on September 2, 2018 and term to expire on September 1, 2021 or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Wittenauer
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Koerber
Nay: None

Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber to reappoint Gregory Swope to the Community Mental Health 708 Funding Board. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 18-75

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that Gregory Swope, 3921 Altes Road, Fults, Illinois be reappointed to the **Community Mental Health 708 Funding Board** for a term of four years with term to commence on September 2, 2018 and term to expire on September 1, 2022 or until a successor is appointed and has qualified.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Wittenauer
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Koerber
Nay: None

Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

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Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

Kim Keckritz and Rachel Giffhorn came to the meeting to present the monthly Oak Hill report. Marion Jordan and Eileen Boxx, recently retired from Oak Hill, were both in attendance to be recognized for their dedicated years of service to the facility.

Ms. Keckritz reported that the census is on budget, and as a result of that the financial bottom line for the facility is also where it should be at this time. She said one of the major problems at the facility has been significant leaks in the sprinkler system. Ms. Keckritz said this has also caused damage in some of the rooms, and residents had to be moved to other areas. She said the insurance company has been to the facility to determine if they will reimburse Oak Hill for any of these damages and for the replacement of some of the sprinkler pipes.

Ms. Giffhorn showed the recently completed employee recruitment video, and the Commissioners were impressed with the finished work.

Motion was made by Commissioner Koerber with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer to go into closed session to discuss personnel. All voting Aye, none Nay and none absent. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 18-76

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that the Board is going into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Koerber
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Wittenauer
Nay: None

Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

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Motion was made by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber to end closed session and return to open session. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 18-77

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois that the Board is ending its closed session and returning to open session.

Passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Illinois at Waterloo, this 20th day of August, 2018.

Motion: Wittenauer
Aye: Three
Absent: None

Second: Koerber
Nay: None

Robert Elmore, Chairman

Dennis M. Knobloch, County Clerk

Delbert Wittenauer, Member

Vicki Koerber, Member

The monthly Nursing Home bills were approved upon motion by Commissioner Wittenauer with a second by Commissioner Koerber. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

The County Board acknowledged those who had recently been awarded the 2018 Best of Southwest Illinois winners by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and they included:

- Oak Hill Care Center for Retirement Home / Senior Living
- Weber Chevrolet in Columbia for Auto Dealer
- Waterloo Feed and Pet Supply for Feed and Farm Supplies
- Mark and Robin Lengacher of Schneider's Quality Meats for Meat Market / Butcher
- Tom and Brandy Clements of Clements Cleaning for House Cleaning
- Amy Hank of Keller Williams Realty for Real Estate Agency
- Jen and Dave Midkiff of Ms. Middy's Salon and Tan for Hair Salon
- Savannah's Southern Charm for Furniture and Home Décor
- JV's Downtown Bar and Grill for Hot Wings
- Hopskeller Brewing Company for Happy Hour
- Ahne's Bakery for Donuts
- Waterloo Community Unit School District #5 for Public School District

Carl Wuertz and Annmarie Marcuson came to the meeting to discuss the personnel needs of the Assessor's office. Mr. Wuertz said he needs to add some employees to his office. He said Nina Binder retired in 2010, and he has been asking the County Board since then to replace her but has

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never received permission to do so. Mr. Wuertz said the County is divided into four quadrants, and each one of them is assessed in detail every four years – one of the quadrants is completed each year. He said he also needs to replace the employee who made the lateral move to the County Clerk's office. Commissioner Wittenauer and Commissioner Koerber both asked if this will put the work of the Assessor's office back on the schedule where it should be. Mr. Wuertz said he believed it would.

Commissioner Wittenauer asked Mr. Wuertz why he was behind. Mr. Wuertz said once the assessment field work is completed, his staff cannot keep up with the data entry for those parcels. Commissioner Koerber said she would be willing to agree to allow Mr. Wuertz to supplement his workforce with one full-time employee to replace the one who moved to the County Clerk's office. She said she would like to see the second employee be a temporary full-time employee, and if the office work is not caught up as Mr. Wuertz says it will, then that employee would not be retained. Ms. Marcuson said she wasn't sure that type of employment was possible, and the County may be liable for unemployment compensation if that type of situation took place. Following discussion, Mr. Wuertz agreed that he would make sure the 2018 tax year assessments are completed no later than the end of February, 2019. Ms. Marcuson was instructed to figure out how a temporary hire can be used in the Assessor's office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Koerber with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer to allow Carl Wuertz to hire one full-time employee to replace the employee who moved to the County Clerk's office, and one temporary full-time employee to do data entry to help get the office back on schedule, and if the tax year 2018 assessments are not completed by February 28, 2019, Mr. Wuertz will not be allowed to keep the second temporary full-time employee. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Wuertz left the meeting.

Ms. Marcuson discussed the County's Health Insurance options with the County Board. Ms. Marcuson said there are currently 163 employees on the County's Health Insurance plan, including all offices and Oak Hill. She said the insurance company rep said the County already had a high-deductible plan, and she didn't see any reason to add a second one. Commissioner Koerber said she feels there are still some employees who would be willing to sign up for a higher deductible plan if they knew the premiums were lower. Ms. Marcuson said the Commissioners also need to decide whether a second plan would include the HRA portion just like the County's current high deductible plan. She also said that the City of Columbia's current plan is being studied to see if it would fit the County's needs. Following additional discussion, it was decided to hold a special County Board meeting on Wednesday, September 5, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss health insurance options.

Carla Heise came to the meeting to discuss the Ambulance Service. She said the next anniversary event will be Free Ice Cream at the Courthouse on Wednesday, August 22, a car seat check in September, a first aid / CPR class in October, a food drive in November, and a toy drive in December. She said she has "voluntold" her personnel that they need to help out with these events.

Ms. Heise said she met with another IT service company that is also used by Columbia, and she was waiting for a quote from that firm. She said currently she has no regular IT service, and only

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calls in assistance when needed. There was discussion of the remounted rig. Ms. Heise said she, as well as the Ambulance crew, were not completely pleased with the newly remounted Ambulance. She said she would be bringing numbers to the Budget Hearings to compare the difference of remounting one of the older rigs as opposed to buying a completely new Ambulance.

Dennis Knobloch said that his office had just received information from the Columbia Fire Protection District, and they would be placing a tax for Ambulance Service on the November ballot.

The meeting was moved to the old Courtroom to begin discussion of the wind farm being proposed by Joe Koppeis. The Commissioners were greeted by a “wall to wall” crowd, with all seats taken and others standing around the perimeter of the room wherever they could find a spot.

Greg Kipping spoke on behalf of Laborers Local 196. He said this is a planned \$220 million project, and it would provide work for many Monroe County residents and be good for Monroe County as a whole. Mr. Kipping said he felt the environmental impact would be minimal, and this would be a safe alternative for now and for future generations. He said he felt there needed to be more effort to develop clean energy, as he had seen a recent air quality study that gave the greater St. Louis area a letter grade of “F”.

Commissioner Koerber said the Commissioners have fielded phone calls and reviewed emails that had been received. She said the County Board received a letter from Mr. Koppeis asking for their approval and signature, and the Commissioners had no part in the authoring or composition of that letter. Commissioner Koerber said from what she understands IDNR is currently reviewing the plans for this development. She said that once an application is submitted to the County Zoning office, this request will have to first go to the County Planning Commission, and that group spent more than 18 months reviewing the development of wind farms and created an ordinance that was passed in 2013. Following review by that group, this proposal would then go to the Zoning Board of Appeals before finally going to the Monroe County Board for final approval, so this project is a long way from being approved for construction and development.

Joe Koppeis was given the opportunity to speak about his proposed wind farm development. He said this is not a new project, as he began exploring the development of wind energy at least eleven years ago in 2007. His first attempts were to see if windmills could be placed on top of the Rock City Business Complex in Valmeyer to help produce the energy needed for the freezer and other businesses there. Mr. Koppeis asked those in attendance to please be objective and listen to all of the details before forming their opinions. He said this project will produce clean energy, and will be good for Southern Illinois – it will create jobs and tax dollars for the local taxing districts. Mr. Koppeis said the major transmission lines are here so it will be easy to tie into that grid network. He said this will offset the shutdown of a portion of the Baldwin power plant.

Mr. Koppeis said towers with sodar equipment have been erected to measure the wind speeds, and even though the available winds here are not at peak levels, they will still provide enough energy to power the wind turbines. He said he has met with power companies and tower contractors to learn all of the details of what is necessary to construct a wind farm. Mr. Koppeis

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said as he began to develop his plans, there were a lot of questions about noise from these turbines, effects on wildlife and crops, etc., so he sponsored a bus tour to visit a wind farm. He said he took along many of the local landowners who had many of these questions, and most were satisfied with the answers they received indicating there were no major negative effects from these devices.

Mr. Koppeis said in the fall of 2010, he hired Taracom Consultants to do some studies on the wind farm development, and their work was completed in 2012. At that time he saw no reason not to continue with his plans to build a wind farm. Mr. Koppeis said he closely followed the work of the Monroe County Planning Commission as they developed the County Wind Farm Ordinance, and he didn't like all of the details of the Ordinance, but felt the instrument was well planned and comprehensive. He said he has been in contact with the local community college about hosting classes at the wind farm to teach students about the benefits of green renewable energy.

Mr. Koppeis said a lot of work has been done, but there is still a lot to do. All of the previously completed environmental work will have to be done again, and SCI has been hired to do that work. He once again asked the County Board to consider signing the letter that had been presented to them. Mr. Koppeis said this is not a letter of approval of the wind farm – it is merely a letter saying the County Board is in support of the development of renewable and wind energy in Monroe County.

Mr. Koppeis introduced Garth Klimchuk, a renewable energy consultant with NorthRenew Energy, who is helping with the development of the plans for this wind farm. Mr. Klimchuk said the members of his firm have more than 100 years of experience. He said they will abide by all of the local rules and regulations. Mr. Klimchuk said their goal is to dwell on the economic benefits for the local community, while at the same time trying to satisfy the concerns of as many of the local people as possible.

Commissioner Koerber said two words she would like to see included in this discussion – IF APPROVED, because she said she wanted to remind those in attendance that this request would have to go through all of the normal zoning channels once the application is submitted.

Chairman Elmore asked how this would affect the Baldwin Power Plant.

Mr. Koppeis said the wind farm would be able to supply electricity to the Baldwin Plant.

Chairman Elmore asked what would be the economic benefits of this project.

Mr. Koppeis said there would be thousands of construction jobs during the initial buildout of the wind farm, and then there would be 15-20 permanent full-time jobs. He said he has also heard some comments about clear-cutting the blufftop for the development of the wind farm. Mr. Koppeis then circulated a map showing there would be a buffer between the wooded blufftop areas and the open areas where he planned to develop the wind farm. He said you will get all of the completed studies and all of the facts about the project, and then a decision can be made. Mr. Koppeis said gathering all of the necessary information could take as long as two years.

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Mr. Klimchuk said the jobs being lost at the Baldwin plant could not be replaced with this project, because once installed, these turbines are very low maintenance.

Commissioner Wittenauer said he knows there are a lot of environmental concerns, but he wanted to know more about the revenue details. He said he was in support of renewable energy, and wouldn't mind having a wind turbine in his backyard, but he represents all of the Monroe County taxpayers, and he had to be sensitive to all of their concerns.

Mr. Koppeis said it is estimated that each wind turbine will generate \$40,000 per year in real estate taxes that would be split by the taxing districts using the same formula as the normal real estate tax bills, with a majority of the taxes going to the local School districts.

Commissioner Wittenauer said and that would benefit the Valmeyer and Waterloo School Districts, but none of this area lies within the Columbia School District.

Chairman Elmore said as the cities continue to grow, the County loses property, so any additional revenue from taxes would help the County.

Mr. Koppeis said that was correct. He said that by 2025, Illinois will require that 25% of the power generated will have to come from renewable sources.

Commissioner Wittenauer asked about the height of the proposed turbines.

Mr. Koppeis said they will be 550 feet tall, and that is to get the adequate wind speeds at those higher levels.

Commissioner Wittenauer asked of the towers proposed, what would be the closest location to the edge of the bluff, and could these be seen from below.

Mr. Koppeis said driving on Bluff Road, most of the turbines would not be able to be seen. He said the proposed buffer line between the wooded areas and the open turbine areas would be permanently established. Mr. Koppeis said most of the proposed tower locations are areas that are currently being planted in crops, and there is no intention to clear cut any areas of the bluff.

Chairman Elmore said the County has a 13-page wind energy ordinance, and anyone who wants a copy can leave their email address so a copy can be emailed to them. He then read a letter from an engineer who works at the Baldwin Power Plant, who said a development like this wind farm will cause even more problems for the Baldwin Plant, resulting in the loss of more jobs there. This engineer also said that because of the expiration of some of the tax credits for the developer, he doubted the project would be a financial success.

Comments from the public were invited.

Pen Daubach, a member of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission presented her thoughts. She complimented the Commissioners for working with the INPC earlier this year to set aside and preserve a section of blufftop property adjacent to Eagle Cliff Miles Cemetery. She said the Nature Preserves Act passed by the State in 1965 mandates local governments to work through a review process for projects such as this. Ms. Daubach said she was pleased to see that INDR is

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currently reviewing parts of the project, and she hopes that process will continue as more details of the project are released. She also said she would like to ask that the Commissioners remain neutral throughout this entire process, and let the findings of the studies guide their decision. Ms. Daubach said signing a letter like the one Mr. Koppeis presented puts a pretty heavy thumb on that review process.

Pat Kelly, a retired engineer at power plants, said millions of dollars have been spent on clean energy, and he is all for windmills and solar fields. He said more and more people are using electric off the grid. Mr. Kelly said he lives in the river bottom, and would welcome a windmill in his backyard. He said he has seen these windmills in different areas, and he has never heard any sounds that are a problem.

Peggy Voelker presented her thoughts and opinions. She said she lives in Monroe County, and she wanted to reference the letter that had been received from the man who works at the Baldwin Power Plant. Ms. Voelker spoke of the power companies, the governance of the transmission lines and how this wind farm would fit into that system. She said beyond these details, she is more concerned of what this project will do to the infrastructure of Monroe County. She said this is a significant project since more than \$200 million is being spent. Ms. Voelker asked if this would include the windmills only, or will this also include the expense of creating access roads to each of these structures? She said bringing in the equipment to build these turbines will destroy the local roads, and will the new access roads being built revert back to the County for future maintenance? She also questioned the assessment of these structures and the \$40,000 in annual tax revenue – is this assessment going to increase annually with inflation? Ms. Voelker said from her experience she has seen that these towers only have a 20-25 year lifespan, and then they either have to be removed or replaced. She asked if an escrow fund will be put in place to cover the expenses of having to remove these structures when they are no longer being used. Ms. Voelker said at the end of 20 years, all of this equipment and infrastructure will have to be taken care of. She said she understands the County Board has to deal with the feelings of many County residents, and this is a difficult decision, and a lifetime decision for the residents of Monroe County – once it's here, it's here. Ms. Voelker said the environmental aspect is very important, but there are also other details of this project that need to be studied completely. She urged the Commissioners to look at all sides of the issue prior to making their decision.

Chairman Elmore asked Carlyle Mueller, of the Monroe County Planning Commission, if he had any comments on this issue. Mr. Mueller said at this time he has no comment.

John Elder said he is a Monroe County citizen, and he works at the Prairie State Energy Complex. He said you can burn Southern Illinois coal cleanly, and it is being done right now at the Prairie State facility. He said that facility is one of the cleanest energy facilities in the whole world. Mr. Elder said these solar and wind projects are government subsidized industries, and he wonders what will be left once these subsidies go away. He said he's also not convinced that these large wind farms have an impact on lowering carbon emissions. Mr. Elder said most of the time all you get are sales pitches from turbine manufacturers making their structures out of parts made in China. He also said that local residents will not see a decrease on their power bill.

Bethany Prange, reporter for the Monroe County Independent, asked several questions. She asked Mr. Koppeis – at one point had you discussed installing some sort of coal or natural gas backup systems on these windmills. Mr. Koppeis said no, that has never been part of the plan. Ms. Prange

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asked – longtime, permanent jobs would be 15-20, and there was another number that had been discussed earlier about work hours. Mr. Koppeis said Mr. Kipping spoke about that, and he thinks that was a figure for the Labor Union only. Ms. Prange said when you talk about clean energy, does that include the potential carbon footprint created when the turbines are created – are they made from steel? Mr. Koppeis said yes, they're made of steel. Ms. Prange asked if we know what it takes to actually make these structures. Mr. Koppeis said he didn't know the answer to that. Ms. Prange asked if the studies being done include the sinkholes in our area and the stability of the limestone bluffs, and how they hold up under heavy weight. Mr. Koppeis said he has had geotechnical companies do studies of the surface area, but the construction would not be done near any sinkholes, and the studies will indicate the areas to stay away from. Ms. Prange said one of the major concerns has been clear-cutting, and you have said you won't have to remove any trees. Mr. Koppeis said there will be none of that. He said there may have to be some roads built to connect some of the structures, but none of that will be in the wooded bluff areas – that will all be in the open fields adjacent to the wooded areas – those areas are all corn and bean fields right now. Ms. Prange said you still need to negotiate with landowners along the bluffs. Mr. Koppeis said that is correct.

Alex Knoll spoke of his concerns. He said he was curious of the reference to “along the bluffs.” He wondered if that had any kind of definition. Mr. Koppeis said there is a map circulating the room showing the general area being considered, and the surrounding buffer area between the wooded and open areas. Mr. Knoll said he understood these towers would be 600 feet tall, with the towers 550 feet. Mr. Koppeis said that is correct. Mr. Knoll said when talking about the taxes, each windmill would be similar to a single-family home, maybe less. Mr. Koppeis asked do you know of any single family homes paying \$40,000 in taxes. Mr. Knoll said none of those houses will ever be built when you have those turbines built along there. Mr. Knoll said the way the County Wind Ordinance is written, the setback on these structures has to be 1.25 times the height, so if the turbine was 500 feet tall, you could put a turbine 630 feet from my property line? Mr. Knoll said many places require a larger setback number because of the noise and the vibrations created by the turbines, and many people have moved out of their homes in other areas where wind turbines have been installed. He said his home taxes have never gone down, but according to the Monroe County Ordinance, the turbine value will be depreciated 3% per year. Mr. Koppeis said he really doubts that – these turbines will be assessed just like real estate and will not depreciate as long as they are operating and generating income. Mr. Knoll said the Ordinance specifies the depreciation amount. Mr. Koppeis said that will be determined by the Assessor, and he will assess the turbines as real estate. There was also some discussion of the Production Tax Credit program.

Rich Harsey, Monroe County resident, expressed his opinion to the Commissioners. He said his family has lived in the County since about 1850, and this development will literally be in his backyard. He said he could anticipate property values in his area dropping 25%-50%. Mr. Harsey said homes are not saleable once these things are built. He said he believes that “history” will judge us for the decisions being made. Mr. Harsey said this is only the beginning of more problem developments. He said he has nothing against Mr. Koppeis, but he is opposed to this project, and he does not want to see it in Monroe County – this will be a “black eye” on Monroe County.

Philip Aubuchon said he heard that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is studying the effects this will have on wildlife, and he suggested that the Altamont, California wind project be

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studied, where original reports showed low numbers of birds would be affected by this project, when in reality the number was much larger once the project was completed. He said he is also concerned about how fires will be handled, and these turbines do occasionally catch on fire – does Monroe County have the resources to handle this type of fire? Mr. Aubuchon said these turbines involve all sorts of exotic metals and chemicals – who will put the fire out, and who will be responsible for cleaning up the mess? He said there have been problems with the turbines falling off – who will take care of that type of problem and the damage it causes? Mr. Aubuchon said they're not pretty to look at, but aesthetics aside, you're putting them in places where people and animals go, and you're inviting problems. He said there are so many places where these things can go, we need to look at other options. Mr. Aubuchon said he can trace his ancestry to the 1600's in Kaskaskia, and if we cannot get a better answer to some of the questions being asked, this process just needs to stop.

Emily Lands said she was from Waterloo, and has worked for some State regulatory agencies, and she feels that the land around here is not ideal for wind farms. She said most of the wind farms you see are developed in the flat prairie areas in northern Illinois and the neighboring states. Ms. Lands said in order to get the desired benefits in this area, they have to build 600-ft. tall turbines that will be eyesores on the landscape. She said she has seen transportation projects killed because of the negative effects on threatened and endangered species, so this could be a definite problem. Ms. Lands said there are two nationally registered historic districts near the area of this project, and part of the Historic Preservation Act takes into account the negative effects on such districts – those being the cultural resources of the historic Maeystown German District and the Prairie du Rocher French Colonial District.

Another lady said she has a problem with these being built on karst topography, and even though you might not be building on a sinkhole, the water and runoff being created by these structures could make one sooner or later. She said she was also concerned about the effects these could have on water quality in the area. Mr. Koppeis said they will not be in the karst areas, and the geotechnical people will do soil borings on those areas where the turbines will be built. He said there is at least 35 feet of overburden in most of the areas where the turbines will be located, and that is plenty to provide a stable base for the structures, according to those who have completed the geotechnical studies. Mr. Koppeis said the turbines have very small footprints, and do not create a lot of runoff. He said if there are areas that are not strong enough to support the turbines, they will just not place one there.

Mr. Koppeis said they have not submitted an application to MISO, but will probably do so later this year. MISO operates the electric transmission systems in the Midwest and Southern portions of the United States. He said that the MISO maps show a lot of availability for electric transmission capacity in this part of the country. Mr. Koppeis said when the Prairie State complex was first constructed, they wanted to purchase power from his proposed wind farm to help operate their facility, which would have made it the cleanest power plant in the world, but they ran into some cost issues, so that idea was shelved. Mr. Koppeis said he has also been negotiating with some major data center operations about locating in the Rock City Complex in Valmeyer, and one of the things they are all looking for is renewable energy as a power source for their facilities. Mr. Koppeis said he appreciated everyone's civility in the meeting today, and he respects the opinions of everyone, and once all of the studies are completed, he will provide that information to all those interested.

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Joann Fricke asked if any part of the proposed wind farm area will be set up as a TIF. Mr. Koppeis said no.

Courtney Schweickhardt said she lives in Valmeyer, and she is concerned about the sound that will be generated by the turbines. She wondered how close to the Village the turbines will be installed. Mr. Koppeis said the closest ones to Valmeyer would be south of IL 156 along C Road. He said sound tests would be conducted at each of the individual turbine sites to make sure the decibel requirements of the local ordinance are met. Ms. Schweickhardt said when you went on the field trip to visit the wind farm, what was the closest town to that site? Mr. Koppeis said he didn't remember the name of the town. Ms. Schweickhardt asked if anyone from that town was contacted to discuss their feelings about the wind turbines. Mr. Koppeis said yes, some of the people in the town were contacted, and no one had anything negative to say about the wind farm. Ms. Schweickhardt said her research indicates that the less wind speed available makes the turbines turn slower, and the slower they turn, the louder they are. Mr. Klimchuk said some of the technology advancements in recent years have allowed the turbines to turn slower with equal or less sound created.

Ms. Schweickhardt said everything was done properly when the streets in Valmeyer were constructed, but now some of them are physically moving. This has been studied by engineers and college professors, and no one has really come up with an answer as to why this is happening. She is concerned that since these turbines are going to be constructed on that same type of soil, will they also be moving after they have been built, and what kinds of problems can this cause. She said this project will do things to the landscape of Monroe County that have never before been experienced, and once this is done we will never be able to get the original landscape back. Ms. Schweickhardt said she is also concerned that this activity is taking place close to Valmeyer, and since there are not many people who live there, this project will be pushed through without any consideration for the people there. She said Valmeyer may be small, but we have a voice, and we are concerned about the future of our community and residents.

Merrill Prange said he could see nothing that would benefit the overall good of Monroe County with this project. He said he collected taxes in this County for more than 30 years, and if you give the Schools and the County Board more tax money, it will be spent and it will be gone, because if you give government more money, they're going to spend it. Mr. Prange said it is not in the best interest of the County to accept this project. He addressed the County Board and said – you represent this County, not Mr. Koppeis and not his assistant.

Chairman Elmore said an hour has been spent listening to comments from the public, and since this process has just started, there will be plenty of time for people to continue to express their opinions.

Mike Fausz, Monroe County Zoning Administrator, was asked to explain the process for review of this project. He said at this time, no application has been received from Mr. Koppeis for his proposed wind farm. Mr. Fausz said if you read the County Wind Ordinance, there are multiple studies that have to be completed before the project can move on to the next phase of review. He said once the studies are completed, the project will go before the Monroe County Planning Commission for review. Mr. Fausz said the Planning Commission meetings are open to the public, and the public is allowed to comment at that time. He said following the study, the Planning Commission will make a decision to approve or deny the request to continue with the

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project. Mr. Fausz said the project then proceeds to the Monroe County Zoning Board of Appeals, and they will hold a Public Hearing at which time members of the public can again testify as to their feelings about the project. He said following review and testimony, they will also vote to approve or deny approval of the project, and these recommendations are then passed on to the County Board for them to make a final decision.

Commissioner Koerber asked Mr. Fausz if he had any kind of estimate as to how long this all could take.

Mr. Fausz said that would be hard to estimate, and Mr. Koppeis may be able to provide a more educated answer as to where he is in the overall process.

Someone in the crowd asked if these other meetings are held during the day when most people work.

Mr. Fausz said no, both the Planning Commission and the Board of Appeals meet in the evening.

Mr. Koppeis said with the environmental process and related studies that have to be completed, the process will take at least another year.

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Koerber with a second by Commissioner Wittenauer. All voting Aye, none Nay and none Absent. Motion carried.