

**SHELBY COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**March 14, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.**

Video archive of meeting can be found at [shelbycounty-il.gov](https://shelbycounty-il.gov) under You Tube

The Shelby County Board met on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in Courtroom A of the Shelby County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Chairman Robert Orman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance followed by a prayer given by Board member Clark Amling.

County Clerk Jessica Fox called the roll. Morse was absent. Brands, Martz, Nelson, and Ross were tardy.

Minutes for the February 8, 2024, Board meeting were presented for approval. Shuff made motion to approve the minutes. Firnhaber seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

Doug Keenan was recommended by the Republican Central committee to fill the vacancy in County Board District 4. Williams made motion to approve the appointment. Edwards seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

Clerk Fox swore in Keenan and he took his seat on the board.

Nelson entered the meeting at 7:10 PM. (18 now in attendance).

Zach Kanneuruf and Matthew Grab with Contract Land Staff who is working with Prairie Power on easement agreements in Shelby County, addressed the board to request approval for easements across the county farm property. The first easement agreement is located in the NW quarter of Section 3, Township 11 Range 3E (parcel 1812-03-00-100-001) and encompasses 8.8 acres. The County will be paid the sum of \$44,400 for this easement. The second easement is located in the NE quarter of Section 4, Township 11, Range 3E (parcel 1812-04-00-200-001) and will encompass 0.81 acres. The county will be paid \$1,000 for this easement agreement. Firnhaber made motion to approve the easement agreements. Brown seconded said motion. Discussion was held.

The benefit of this project is to loop substations for Shelby Electric Cooperative. Kanneuruf stated they did not currently have all of the easement agreements in place for this project and was still working with other property owners. It was also stated an easement value differs from a property value. Boehm questioned if the States Attorney had reviewed this project and could negotiate an easement on the County's behalf. Mayhall asked if landowners contacted by CLS had been told they will take the property for the easement regardless. Kanneuruf stated was a correct statement.

On Firnhaber' motion, Brown' second, the easement agreements passed by voice vote (11 yes, 7 no – Boehm, Cole, Martin, Mayhall, Orman, Tate, and Wallace).

Beth Beck-Martts, CEFS Transportation Director presented for approval the FY 2025 5311/DOAP Transportation Ordinance, a resolution authorizing the Board Chairman to apply for 5311 Grant funds, the purchase of service agreement between CEFS and Shelby County and the vehicle lease agreement between CEFS and Shelby County. The Intergovernmental Agreements with Clay, Fayette, Moultrie, and Montgomery Counties to provide public transportation within their county limits, were also submitted for approval at this time. A memorandum of understanding with Effingham County for the use of vehicles was also presented. \$1,697,700 in State funding has been requested, as well as \$453,953 in Federal funding for Public Transportation, which was the same amounts requested last year. These are basically "pass through" funds and are submitted annually for County Board approval. Beck-Martts also presented a FY 2023 report, stated CIPT was having a hard time finding drivers. A new position was created last year in partnership with the Effingham County Health Department and the ARISE grant. The new position is a Medical Transportation Coordinator, which is a specialized dispatch. This new position helps coordinate medical transportation to medical appointments and aid with Medicaid approvals and billing issue, and recently became a provider for MTM a Medicaid managed care organization. Beck-Martts said she also hoped to get rid of 10 old buses in the future. While this will be done by sealed bid process, she said most of the vehicles need to be sent straight to scrap.

Firnhaber made motion to approve the Ordinance. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 0 no).

McCormick made motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Board Chairman to apply for the 5311 Grant funds. Cole seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote

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(18 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay – 0.

Cole made motion to approve the intergovernmental agreements with Moultrie, Christian, Clay, Montgomery, and Fayette counties. Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 0 no).

Tate made motion to accept the Purchase of Service Agreement between Shelby County and CEFS. Wallace seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 0 no).

Firnhaber made motion to accept the Vehicle Lease Agreement between Shelby County and Effingham County. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (18 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay – 0.

Cole made motion to approve the MOU for vehicle use between Effingham and Shelby counties. Wallace seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 0 no).

At this time Chairman Orman called for the County Engineer's report.

Michael Tappendorf addressed the board to request approval for 5 resolutions and 4 50/50 petitions. Prior to discussing the items requiring approval, Tappendorf updated the board on many projects his department has been working on, which is attached to these minutes.

Tappendorf presented for approval a resolution to award the low bid for pugmill to the lone bidder, Howell Paving with a bid of \$99,000. This will be paid for with Federal Aid State Match funds. Brown made motion to approve the resolution. Wallace seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (18 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay – 0

The next resolution presented for approval was to amend an Ordinance for Shelby County to include a road use agreement with companies who might be doing project with heavy road use. Most roads will be fixed after completion of the project, but during if necessary. This will allow for negotiations for road repair that is fair to both the county and the contractor.

Brown made motion to approve, Bennett seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 0 no).

On a motion by Brown, with a second by Firnhaber a resolution was presented to approve a resolution to use \$20,000 of Federal Aid State Match funds to pay for preliminary and construction engineering for County Highway 3 reconstruction. This work will be done in house and FASM can be used to recoup some of the costs. This motion and second passed by roll call vote (18 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Brown a resolution to approve \$150,000 in ARPA funds passed by roll call vote (18 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

The final resolution presented for approval was to allow County Engineer Michael Tappendorf certificate of authority to bind the county in an agreement for the purchase of road salt for FY 2025-2026. Brown made motion to approve the resolution. Williams seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (18 yes, 0 no).

Ross entered the meeting at 7:50 PM. (19 in attendance).

Orman made motion to approve a 50/50 petition from the Ash Grove Township Road commissioner was presented for approval. This is to construct drainage improvements at the SE quadrant of Section 34 (intersection of 3405E/1500N), with the total costs being \$15,255 to be shared equally between the township and the county. Brown seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

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Bennett made motion to approve a 50/50 petition from the Pickaway Township Road commissioner to construct drainage improvements in the SE quadrant of Section 35 (N of 1645E/2175N intersection). Total costs to be \$13,000, to be split equally between the township and the county. Brown seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

Brown made motion to approve a 50/50 petition from the Todds Point Township Road commissioner to construct drainage improvements at the intersection of 2050E and 2300N. Total costs are \$19,968.25 to be shared equally between the township and the county. Wallace seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

McCormick made motion to approve a 50/50 petition from the Prairie Township Road commissioner to construct drainage improvements on 2700 E, North of 100 N Rd. The current structure will be replaced with a 10-foot diameter steel tank car and the costs are \$26,685.47 to be shared equally by the township and county. Brown seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

Tate made motion to approve a 50/50 petition from the Prairie Township Road commissioner to construct drainage improvements on 300 N Rd, 2 miles W of Stewardson. The current structure will be replaced with a 10-foot diameter steel tank car and the costs are \$26,731.47 to be shared equally between the township and the county. Brown seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

Firnhaber made motion to approve Consociate health to complete the Federally mandated Drug Cost reporting on behalf of Shelby County for \$1,750. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (19 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: none.

EMA Director Scott McKee addressed the board to talk about emergency services in Shelby County. McKee stated Shelby County is a large county land wise, and most all emergency services such as the fire protection districts run with volunteer help. Many small districts face financial hardships, run with old equipment, and suggested the county hire a grant writer to assist these small departments with grant funding. McKee also spoke on the difficulties local ambulance services have with hiring EMT's which results in reduced availability of ambulance services at times. McKee also stated with summer on the horizon, water rescue was an issue that needed to get resolved. Some folks have expressed an interest to volunteer or get training.

Martz entered the meeting at 8:08 PM, Brands entered the meeting at 8:10 PM. (21 members in attendance).

Mayhall made motion to approve the resolution to upgrade the 911 communication system. McCormick seconded said motion. Discussion was held. Communication towers are desperately needed in several places in the County. A presentation was given to the board at the July 11, 2023, board meeting, and a request made for ARPA funds to upgrade the Shelby County Emergency Responders radio system, as the current system is insufficient in supplying the communication needs of emergency responders. Rescue and Fire are on the same frequency, but the law enforcement is not. The resolution states the Shelby/Christian 911 board would be responsible for the procurement of communication equipment and services rendered for the construction of the communication upgrade. Some of the fire services have had to install their own towers and repeaters in order to communicate. The purpose of this resolution, according to the Board Chairman who drafted this resolution, is for the Shelby County board to take a stance and make the funding commitment to the 911 board. The plan

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is to install more towers/repeaters, and it was stated the Sheriff could place their own repeaters on towers to benefit their communications. Ross stated he was in full support of the project, but without knowing the scope of the project or the amount of ARPA funds needed, he was uncomfortable with how the resolution was currently written. Orman stated Shelby County would obligate the funds to the system for Shelby County, but the Christian/Shelby 911 board would assume all responsibility of the maintenance of the equipment upgrade installed jointly by the Christian/Shelby 911 board. The projected scope is 10 additional towers with repeaters so the southern part of the county (Cowden, Herrick, Oconee) to get full coverage. A quote was given of almost \$585,000 at the July 11, 2023. The 911 board cannot afford to fully fund this project and this resolution is stating the Shelby County board would obligate up to \$300,000, but not to exceed, towards this project. There was a massive issue, a 3-year GIS project, this summer for the 911 board that created a budget crunch. Orman stated in discussion with the Christian/Shelby 911 board would be as close to 50/50 as they could get it. Orman felt like \$300,000 from Shelby County was a good start. Mayhall stated he had numerous conversations with the presenters from the July meeting and with the Sheriff. Mayhall stated if towers/repeaters were being installed, it would be a wise idea to install repeaters to benefit the Sheriff at the same time. The Sheriff said the current proposals submitted did nothing for his department. The current resolution is to support 911 communications overall, not specific departments. It was suggested that there be one resolution signed by both board chairmen. Ross suggested tabling the resolution as currently drafted. Ross again expressed his support for the resolution but stated a scope of the project is needed in order to help the board and the sheriff to know if this would benefit his department, and that Shelby County needed to pay for the pieces and not give them the money. This is 911's project, Shelby County is just saying we will help fund the project. A binding work agreement for the project and how the funds will be used should probably be added to this agreement.

Martin made motion to amend the resolution to include a statement that reads, this resolution shall establish the commitment of the Shelby County board to provide funding to the 911 equipment upgrade and whereas no funds will be expended by the Shelby County Board until a working agreement/contract is negotiated by both board chairs with the 911 board. Brands seconded said motion. Discussion continued.

Ross recommended striking all paragraphs except the amendment Orman just wrote, he said he was fine the amended statement, but the resolution was so far away from where it should be, he would be a no vote. Ross stated he was opposed to the language of the resolution, not supporting the 911 board or the upgrade. Orman stated he tried to put too many details in the resolution when he was drafting it. Boehm asked if this project would be put out for bid? Orman said in terms of bidding this project it really falls into specialized services and equipment.

Brands called the vote, which the Orman stated was for the amendment. Martin's motion to amend, as seconded by Brands, passed by voice vote (21 yes, 0 no).

It was asked if the entire resolution could just be the amended paragraph. Edwards motion to strike everything but the last amended paragraph. Ross seconded said motion. Discussion continued. It was questioned since the agenda stated an up to amount if the board would be violating something by approving the amended resolution. Since the board would not be exceeding an amount listed on the agenda there would not be any rules violated.

Tate said the board had discussed this resolution for over 30 minutes, and it was obvious the board was in support of this, Tate made motion to table this resolution until next month, when a more specific resolution could be put before the board. Boehm seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 5 no – Brands, Brown, Firnhaber, Martin, and Wallace).

On a motion by Ross, the board voted enter Closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 C 2 – collective bargaining matters. Shuff seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (18 yes, 3 no – Boehm, Brown, and Edwards). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Brands, Cole, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: Boehm, Brown, and Edwards. For ease of the public in attendance, the board held the closed session in Courtroom B.

**CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

Brands left the meeting during closed session.

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At 10:05 PM, the Board returned to Courtroom A. There was no action taken in Closed Session.

Cole made motion to re-enter open session. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Brands, Cole, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: Boehm, Brown, and Edwards. For ease of the public in attendance, the board held the closed session in Courtroom B.

There was no action taken in the closed session meeting.

Upon recommendation of the Public Safety committee the following items were presented for approval.

Edwards made motion to approve the Board Chair and Public Safety Chair having access to the Dive Team building. Firnhaber seconded said motion. Discussion was held as to what the board was giving permission for. There is a lease for the building, which states it will follow its successors. This building houses county property and equipment, and it is felt that the Board and Public Safety Chair should have access.

Edwards motion, seconded by Firnhaber passed by voice vote (18 yes, 2 no Boehm and Mayhall).

Ross made motion to remove from the table the intergovernmental agreement between the County and the Village of Stewardson for animal control which had been tabled at the January 11, 2024, meeting. Edwards seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

The IGA has been updated with a new fee schedule based on the 2020 census, which resulted in a lower fee for Stewardson. McCormick made motion to approve the IGA. Martz seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Upon recommendation by the Legislative committee the following items were presented for approval.

Chair Williams updated the board that about a year ago, the committee was informed that video entertainment services were being streamed on the County WiFi, by managed services provider Mytec Solutions. Since the computers and the WiFi is paid for with taxpayer's funds, and the streaming of video entertainment services could cause a reduction in bandwidth for court services, it was recommended that video entertainment streaming services be blocked from the county WiFi. Some of these services include, but are not limited to Hulu, Netflix, Peacock, Prime. Video entertainment streaming services will not be blocked for the Court services offices and Sheriff's department. You Tube, Zoom, and other public meeting services will not be blocked.

Williams made motion to approve the resolution. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Williams made motion to approve a resolution to allow for a secondary WiFi for court services that will act as a backup in the primary WiFi goes down and will also be a secondary point of access for court appointed public defenders/counsel and clients, separate from the courthouse's private network. Firnhaber seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Williams made motion to approve the County Fuel Policy as drafted by the Legislative committee. Edwards seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (20 yes, 0 no).

Chairman Orman called for committee reports. (Committee reports are attached to these minutes).

Legislative committee chair Williams stated it would be helpful to the County Clerk's office if agenda items could be received in advance of the meeting, such as a week in advance. It was also requested that agendas for committee meetings be forwarded to the full board and department heads.

Airport committee member Cole stated there would be a pancake breakfast at the Airport on May 4<sup>th</sup> with a fly-in. Cole also stated a lot of flight training had been going on at the airport, a father and son recently did their first solo flight within an hour of each other, and 2 Shelby County residents recently piloted a Southwest flight together.

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The remodel/construction project at the health department is 95% complete. An open house will be held April 3-4th.

Under old business, Blaine Meadows from, Centrica, spoke with the board about the Courthouse window project. Meadows provided some information about Centrica and shared some pictures from the window project the firm completed in Coles County. Centrica will also be working with Effingham County on a window replacement project.

Bennett made motion to approve the claims for payment. Tate seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (20 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Amling, Bennett, Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Martin, Martz, Mayhall, McCormick, Nelson, Orman, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams.

At 10:50 PM Chairman Orman called for Public Body comment.

At 11:03 PM Martin, Nelson, and Wallace left the meeting.

Public comments/opinions expressed dealt with the following:

- Treatment of County employees
- Grand jury hearings
- Professionalism and leadership
- Dive team
- Legal issues of a current board member
- Courthouse window project
- County board control over elected officials

There was no further business to come before the Shelby County board.

Cole made a motion to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on April 11, 2024. Tate seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (17, yes, 0 no). The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 PM.

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Jessica Fox  
Shelby County Clerk and Recorder