

May 31, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES
of the
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD

*Members of the Douglas County Board convened in Special Session at 9:00 A.M., County Board Room, Courthouse, Tuscola, Illinois. Chairman Munson called the meeting to order and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

*Members answering to roll call: Dick Hein, Tom Hettinger, Phil Morris, Don Munson, Jim Mikeworth, and Gary Luth.
YEAS: 6 ABSENT: Appleby ***Motion Passes.***

Discussion with Judge Broch and State's Attorney Watson concerning the replacement of the Public Defender position when Jeannine Garrett retires at the end of the year.

Options:

1. Keep Kevin Nolan as a PD and bring on an additional PD to replace Garrett.
2. One PD to handle everything-paid 90% of SA salary, State Reimburses 66 2/3 of salary.

Kevin Nolan has expressed an interest in the position as the sole PD for Douglas County. Broch commented that Nolan wastes no time with cases, if not going to court he gets in and out and doesn't clog up the system. An advantage is Nolan knows the court system and all the players, e.g., Judge, SA, and Sheriff.

The biggest issue would be the need for a conflict attorney-where maybe a case has 5 people involved (they would have to have separate attorneys). In this case, the court generally tries to use local attorneys as the conflict attorneys and we could continue to do that, but would need a Budget for that expense. Jeannine Garrett has expressed an interest in serving as a conflict attorney even after she retires. SA Watson thought that \$30,000 would be a good place to start for funding the conflict attorney line item.

Judge Broch has office space upstairs in the front ½ of jury room 1. The Judge said he could help cover desk, fax, and copier costs out of his court improvement fund. There is not a need for a secretary at this time.

Broch and SA Watson feels that this is a good move for Douglas County, Nolan is a known, right down the street, and just a good fit for our County.

Chairman Munson thanked Broch and Watson for their presentation and their time. Munson polled the Board to see what their thoughts were. Everyone was receptive to the proposal and the Clerk will communicate with them and ask for written summation of their proposal to be included with the June CB packet and the Board will take action at their June 15th meeting.

In other business, Hettinger informed the CB of repairs needed for the boiler and the AC in Courtroom 1. We would be at least 20 weeks out on a new AC purchase and we are currently waiting on estimates for repair of boiler vs. replacement. Hettinger also stated that he had bids for blind replacement in the S of A office and the Circuit Clerk's office. He will present those bids at the Building and Grounds meeting tomorrow. There was also discussion all the AC repair this past month at the Courthouse. Chairman Munson would like to hold a Special County Board meeting sometime in late June to discuss and prioritize the remaining ARPA projects. The date of Friday, June 24, 2022 @ 9:00 A.M. with the Special County Board meeting to discuss these projects.

QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

***Motion by Luth/Mikeworth:** At 10:05 A.M., there being no further business to come before the County Board at this time, to adjourn to June 15, 2022 at 9:00 A.M., County Board Room, Courthouse.

YEAS: 6

ABSENT: Appleby

Motion Passes.

Judi Pollock, Ex-Officio Clerk