

**Special Executive/Legislation Committee**  
**Thursday August 4, 2025**  
**Joseph G. Cannon Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 5:30 PM**

## **MINUTES**

### **Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Steve Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Upon the call of roll, the following members were present: Steve Miller, Tim McFadden, Jerry Hawker, Mark Steinbaugh, Lon Henderson, Britny Hoag, Jim McMahan, Greg Shepard, and Nancy O’Kane. 9 Present. Also attending the meeting were: County Board Members; Larry Baughn, and Becky Stark, (via telephone) Andrew Key- Heyl, Royster, Voelker, & Allen, P.C., and Jennifer Jenkins - County Board Office Manager.

### **Agenda Item 2 - Adoption/Amendment to the Agenda**

Motion by Hawker, seconded by O’Kane to approve the agenda. Motion passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2025**

Steinbaugh moved, seconded by Hoag, to approve the May 22, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item 4 - Audience Comments**

None

### **Agenda Item 5 –Danville Public Building Commission**

Miller informed the committee that there is an increase of 6% in the first year and a 3% increase in the following two years. There is an increase in the capital request due to building needs such as chillers and other building updates and repairs. There is no change in the DPBC lease agreement for the Juvenile Detention Center. Motion by Hawker, second by Steinbaugh to approve the Danville Public Building Commission lease. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to wit; Miller, McFadden, Hawker, Steinbaugh, Henderson, Hoag, McMahan, Shepard, and O’Kane. 9 yes.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Resolution – Vermilion County Health Insurance**

Human Resources Director, Nancy Boose, introduced representative from EPIC Insurance Midwest and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Along with Boose was the Personnel Benefits Manager, Meg Jacobson. Boose informed the committee of the need for change of medical benefits due to the closure of Health Alliance. This change will take place on October 1, 2025. The HR Dept, along with Chairman Miller, worked with the County’s broker, EPIC to research medical benefits plans that would suit the needs and provide equal, if not better, coverage for the Vermilion County employees. Deb Simmons from BCBS of Illinois provided the committee with answers to their queries regarding the actual coverage and network. One of the items that she pointed out was that CVS was not a tier 1 RX provider for this specific plan. They would however be classified as a tier 2. They also added that even expanding into Indiana for most providers, would be considered as tier 1. This plan has a much broader range of in network providers as well. Boose added that there will also be per occurrence deductibles for some services. However, these occurrence deductibles do contribute to the out-of-pocket expense. The amount of out-of-pocket expense is dependent on the tier of the service. Boose and Jacobson provided the committee with a handout that broke down and summarized some of the plan. Boose along with the EPIC team advised of the cost savings of this plan to not only the County but employees as well. Some of the key points summarized were as follows: overall in network deductible is \$1500.00 whereas it was \$2500.00, also BCBS does have an extended in network provider base, the out-of-pocket was also reduced from Health Alliance from \$5000.00 to \$3500.00, EPIC also advised that any out-of-pocket or deductibles already met (up to October) with Health Alliance will be honored with BCBS, Hawker asked what the overall savings was for the County as he originally thought it was going to be around \$900,000.00 but now this is less than \$700,000.00. He also asked if the employees were going to benefit from the County overall savings on this plan. EPIC redirected Hawker and the rest of the committee to the highlighted area on the handout. This summary shows the County savings as well as the employee’s costs for the plan. McMahan added that he was very impressed with Boose and Chairman Miller and the outcome of this change. He understands the necessity of this with the unions, etc. This is not an easy task when you are forced to move along so quickly. Hawker asked if Polyclinic, locally owned, is in network or if they could be. He was advised that they would be considered tier 2 and they could contract if they so choose. Motion by McFadden, second by McMahan to approve the resolution. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to wit; Miller, McFadden, Hawker, Steinbaugh, Henderson, Hoag, McMahan, Shepard, and O’Kane. 9 Yes.

**Agenda Item 7 – Consider, Discuss, and Vote on Landscape Management Plan of CVE US IL Ridge Farm 324**

Keyt advised that this project where one of the conditions for approval was for CVE US IL Ridge Farm 324 to return back to the County Board, a landscape management plan. This plan calls for screening of the project around the 4 sides of the project. This would include evergreen trees surrounding the site. Also included was the seeding and vegetation of the site. It was determined that the site be pollinator friendly. This is similar to the Nexamp project which is right down the road. Henderson asked if there were any requirements on when the shrubs are planted. Basically, if the newly planted shrubs/trees die are they responsible for replanting. Keyt advised that they must maintain for the life of the project which in this instance if one died they would have to go in and replace them. Keyt also added that this verbiage is within the plan that they must maintain a living buffer. Motion by Haker for approval of the Landscape Management Plan, second by O’Kane. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to wit; Miller, McFadden, Hawker, Steinbaugh, Henderson, Hoag, McMahan, Shepard, and O’Kane. 9 yes

**Agenda Item 8 – Consider, Discuss, and Vote on Vegetation and Landscape Management Plan of Vermilion Solar 3**

Keyt advised that this is one of the two Pivot projects. This proposal is also for a pollinator friendly site. Keyt added that there are incentives with the state for pollinator friendly sites. This plan is similar to the previous plan discussed. This would be only for the landscape and vegetation management. They have not included a vegetation screening plan with this provision. They will need to provide this plan for further approval. Hawker asked if the committee should wait for this information to be provided or move forward. Keyt advised he is comfortable proceeding with this information as the solar provider understands the screening plan must be provided. They will have to come back for approval for this screening. Motion by Hawker, second by Henderson to approve. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to wit; Miller, McFadden, Hawker, Steinbaugh, Henderson, Hoag, McMahan, Shepard, and O’Kane. 9 yes

**Agenda Item 9 – Consider, Discuss, and Vote on Text Amendment Proposal and to Hold Public Hearing for Same**

Miller explained that this item is coming forth because he wanted to update the language that we previously had in the Wind/Solar Ordinance from 2023 as he thought the verbiage was misleading. He further explained that what the previous language was intended to say was that the County Board was not bound by the recommendation of the Wind/Solar committee. Miller agrees with this however, it was not interpreted that way. He wanted to clear this up. The language he recommends is the following: the Wind/Solar committee shall provide written findings of fact and make a recommendation to the County Board regarding the proposed project. The County Board is not bound by the recommendations of the committee. The decision to grant or deny shall be based on the evidence submitted at public hearing and subject to State and Federal law. Hawker asked Keyt if the County Board members are bound, according to state law, to take direction from what evidence the Wind/Solar committee found or are the County Board members able to look at this information and make their own determination. Keyt advised that the County Board members can do this however what he would caution is the evidence that is in the record that came before the Wind/Solar committee are the facts/findings that they have recommended to the County Board. Miller added that it is the Hearing Officer that decides what is entered into the record, not the Wind/Solar committee. McMahan advised that he understands why the language needed changed. He further added that the reason we have the Wind/Solar committee is for exactly this purpose, we utilize this process to make it less painful. We could walk away from this whenever we want. However, with our involvement, we do have regulations, etc. If we did nothing then there would be wind/solar everywhere without any regulations. Hoag further added that that at the beginning and end of it is, it is the property owners decision. Motion by Steinbaugh, second by Hoag to approve. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to wit; Miller, McFadden, Hawker, Steinbaugh, Henderson, Hoag, McMahan, Shepard, and O’Kane. 9 yes

**Agenda Item 10 – Executive Session**

None needed

**Agenda Item 11 - Items of Information**

Hawker asked about projects, within the 1 ½ miles, specifically the City of Danville. The council did not accept the zoning change and only half of the project was in the zoning. So that portion went forward. He doesn’t think that there is any oversight of these projects. He understands that the County does not but whom is responsible for the oversight of the properties? Keyt advised Vermilion County is not a zoned county. Because we are not zoned then there is a provision in the municipal code. When the siting statute was passed in 2023 it was geared towards being

able to work with a county that already had zoning setup. It didn't specify if a county did not. There is a provision in the municipal code that states that municipalities have a 1 ½ mile zoning jurisdiction over the contiguous properties of their border. They also have planning jurisdiction. The question is what is the extent of that authority for the municipality and its interplay with the County in relation to how those properties would be governed once the zoning process has gone through the municipalities zoning process. In Keyt's opinion these should be enforced by the City of Danville. What he suggests is setting up a conversation with the City of Danville to further discuss enforcement.

Miller advised that there was a bar owner that was questioning a Village of Ridge Farm liquor permit. This person would like to conduct liquor sales outside of the Village of Ridge Farm. However, the County does not issue the Village of Ridge Farm liquor permits. The current County liquor ordinance states that the County is only able to issue special event or temporary liquor permits to current Vermilion County liquor permit holders. This is something that we will look into further and bring back to committee along with possible other liquor ordinance updates/revisions.

**Agenda Item 12- Adjournment**

Motion by Henderson, seconded by McFadden to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Minutes by: Jennifer Jenkins, County Board Office Manager