

**Present:** Mark Clinkenbeard, Chris Switzer, Mike Morris.

**Others present:** Auditor Larry Hutchings, Chief Deputy Auditor Morgan Elkins, Brady Harp, Suzanne Reick, Katie Bartlett, Jordynne Shelton, Kara Wright, Bill Watson, Chris Eldredge, Diana Smith, Danielle Isbell, Bob Rhodes, Kevin Gardner, Charlotte Hoke, Vickie Albright, Devan Gackle, Larry Robbins, Mandy Puller, Joni Wise, Cheryl Lehman, Shelley Rubinacci, Norm Loudermilk, Amanda Shook, Bruce Allen, Tim Cunningham, WTWO-TV, 4 members of the public.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Mark Clinkenbeard called the meeting to order at 9:00am and Tim Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Review of minutes/claims.** Auditor Larry Hutchings presented the Board with the minutes for the meeting from February 18th for approval. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes as presented. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0 the motion was passed.

Larry then presented the minutes for the rezoning hearing from February 11<sup>th</sup> for approval. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0 the motion was passed.

Larry presented the Board with minutes from the Bid Opening for Annual Bids of the Vigo County Highway Department. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Chris Switzer noted he was not at the meeting and would abstain from voting. With a voice vote of 2-0 the motion passed.

Mr. Hutchings then presented the Board with the claims docket for the period of February 14, 2025 through February 21, 2025 in the amount of \$832,824.15. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the claims docket dated February 14, 2025 through February 21, 2025 in the amount of \$832,824.15. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon voice vote of 3-0, the motion was passed.

### **Midwest Presort**

Vigo County Assessor Kevin Gardner then took the podium and presented the Board with a contract for Midwest Presort. He explained Midwest Presort was the vendor the Assessor's Office uses for Form 11 mailing. He said by statute the office must mail out the forms every year before May 1<sup>st</sup>. He said Midwest Presort is the company the Office has used since he had been in office. He said this contract was about \$3,000 more than last year's and the majority of the expense would be in postage. Kevin said he did not have the company mail any forms to exempt properties. He said the exempt properties would have the form accessible online. He said the company would combine parcels for people who own multiple properties so they would receive just one envelope containing the information the forms they need. Mike Morris asked what percentage the price increase was from the year before. Kevin Gardner estimated it would be about a 3% increase. Chris Switzer motioned to approve the contract. Mike Morris seconded the motion. With a vocal vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

### **Purchase of Class 6 Trucks**

Vigo County Engineer Larry Robbins approached the Board with a purchase order for four Class 6 trucks for the Highway Department. He said this was part of an ongoing fleet plan to replace trucks as they

became outdated. He said the order would be for four Class 6 trucks, which are non-CDL trucks. He said they would be single axel and one ton each. He said the quote included a chassis for one of the Highway Department's sign trucks. He said the balance on the order was \$990,948.00. He said he acquired here quotes for financing from local lenders. On a five year payment plan, First Financial Bank's rate was 4.56%, Old National Bank's rate was 5.76%, and Riddell National Bank's rate was 5.49%. Larry said his recommendation would be to go with First Financial Bank. Mark Clinkenbeard asked what the new trucks would be used for. Larry said the new trucks would be used for hauling operations and snow plowing. He mentioned the trucks were drivable without a CDL allowing for a larger pool of recruits. He said these trucks would be for the smaller routes the Department is responsible for. Mike Morris asked about the state of county roads at the current point in the season. Larry said with extended periods of very low temperatures, the ground was frozen deeper than he had seen it in the last few years. He this winter's weather conditions have created a tough situation with roads that have poor drainage and roads in rural areas. Larry said a lot of these roads are starting to now starting to blow apart. He said depending on the weather, the Department would have to address the issues with area roadways as March progresses. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the purchase order for new trucks and the proposed financing agreement. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. With a voice vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

### **Annual Bids for Highway**

Larry Robbins said annual bids had been opened the day before the meeting. He said on average the sand and gravel bids had gone up .5-2%. He said pipe bids had been opened as well and those bids were cheaper with a fairly new bidder. He said he recommended accepting a bid for Metal Culverts Inc. for pipe and recommended accepting all the bids from S&G Excavating, McGuire Excavating, and Lincoln Park Stone, Metal Culverts Inc., and E3 Bridges. He said it was helpful to have different suppliers for materials for different areas of the county and sometimes some suppliers were cheaper than others. Mike Morris made a motion to accept the recommended bids for stone, sand, gravel and pipe. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. With a vocal vote of 3-0 the motion passed. Larry noted the asphalt and bituminous section of the annual bids would be advertised and opened at a later date.

### **HWC Contract Amendment**

Larry Robbins then presented the Board with an amendment to move money around in the contract with HWC Engineering from Right-of-Way Engineering to Environmental Services to complete an additional bat survey due to the previous bat survey expiring on the Clinton Road project at the bridge. He said this is a no cost change order. He said the amount changed was near \$7,000. Mark Clinkenbeard asked for an update on the Clinton Road project before moving to vote. Larry said at the time of the meeting they were in the land acquisition phase and they were trying to get the environmental document complete and submitted to INDOT. He said the goal would have construction beginning spring of 2026 and completion at the end of 2026. He said the bat study needed to be completed because the last study was done two years ago. Logistics of how a bat study is conducted was briefly discussed. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the amendments to the HWC Engineering project. Mike Morris seconded the motion. With a vocal vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

### **Update Veterans Affairs**

Vickie Albright and Tim Cunningham with Vigo County Veteran's Affairs took the podium to give an update on Veteran's Affairs. Tim Cunningham said the Vigo County Veteran's Assistance Office advocates for all veterans and families regardless of conflict. He said the office assists with DD214's, healthcare benefits, and disability from injuries received in service, and higher education benefits for service members/spouses/families. He said they have burial benefits assisting family members, furnishing headstones and more. He said the office assists with surviving spouses, and assisting with aid and

caregivers in the home. He said the office also helps with property and vehicle tax deductions. Tim said there are grants that assist with making homes ADA accessible from \$2,500 to \$25,000. He mentioned relief grants for back to school supplies and clothing for children and Christmas. He said their veterans brought in over a million dollars in 2024 and over 4 million since 2020. He said this is compensation money for the veterans. He said this is money used in Vigo County to support the local economy. He noted they had two offices in Vigo County. He said the Vigo County Annex office took 2,233 phone calls in 2024, and had 1,610 appointments. Tim said he averages between 8-10 veterans every day. Mike Morris asked if the Vigo County office serviced Veterans from all over the country. Tim said they did and that all Veterans Service Organizations were not as helpful as his office. He said in Illinois the nearest office was in Peoria so some Illinois residents use his office. He said roughly 1-3% of veterans serviced in his office were from outside Vigo County. He said from Veteran Compensation and pensions there is about \$28 million coming into Vigo County. Mark Clinkenbeard asked how long Vickie and Tim had been in their positions. Tim said he had been working since 2020, and Vickie had been with the office for 6 years. Chris Switzer expressed appreciation for the work Tim and Vickie do. The logistics of scheduling appointments for the office was briefly discussed.

**Public Comments**


There were none.

**Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Elected Officials.**


Norm Loudermilk said the Vigo County Group Home is up and running.

The next meeting will be March 4, 2025. The meeting recessed at 9:25 am.

  
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Mark Clinkenbeard

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Chris Switzer  
  
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Mike Morris

Attest:

  
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Larry T. Hutchings II, Auditor