

**FAYETTE COUNTY**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

**Convene**

Jacob Harris, Chairperson, called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at the Fayette County Courthouse, Lincoln Room, 221 South Seventh Street, Vandalia, Illinois, 62471 on May 7, 2024 at 6:32 p.m.

**Attendance**

Glenda Bartels, *Present*; Michael L Butts, *Present*; Casey Cameron, *Absent*; Patrick Click, *Present*; Merrell H Collins, *Present*; Jacob Harris, *Present*; Doug Knebel, *Present*; Mack Payne, *Present*; Scott L Ray, *Present*; Ryan Tompkins, *Present*; Ashley Towler, *Present*; James Wehrle, *Present*; Joe A Wills, *Present*; District 7, *VACANT*

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

Mack Payne made a motion to approve prior finance minutes dated 4/2/2024. Glenda Bartels second the motion. The motion passed by vote.

**Public Comment**

None

**Administrator Report**

Jake Johnson, Bellwether Advantage, LLC: explained to the county board that the over time rule will be effective July 1, 2024. This will allow exempt employees to obtain paid time off. Bellwether is working on finalizing the ARPA report, they are following up on projects. Jake Johnson completed the Fueling Station Revenue Impact Study and resented it to the board. (Exhibit A)

Justin Greely, Bellwether Advantage LLC: has had communication with Greg Swanson, Renewable Energy Revolution, on Solar Projects. The money will need to be frontloaded and the window has not been closed on that yet.

**Persons to Address Board**

None

## **Discussion of Financial Issues**

### **1. Discussion and possible approval of Coroner's Salary. (Exhibit B, C & D)**

Discussion: Patrick Click made a motion to approve Coroner's new salary of \$55,000 with a 1% increase in a 4-year term. The coroner's current salary is \$31,300, the new salary will bring up to fellow elected officials. The low end of the salary is \$48,000 and high end is \$72,000 with a medium UCCI rate is \$40,591. Mack Payne second the motion. Glenda Bartels (Yes); Michael Butts (Yes); Casey Cameron (Absent); Patrick Click (Yes); Merrell Collins (Yes); Jacob Harris (Yes); Doug Knebel (Yes); Mack Payne (Yes); Scott Ray (Yes); Ryan Tompkins (Yes); Ashley Towler (No); James Wehrle (Yes); Joe Wills (No); District #7 (VACANT). The motion was passed by roll call vote.

### **2. Discussion and possible approval of ARPA request to contract Fidler.**

Discussion: Ashley Towler made the motion to approve \$38,000 of ARPA funds towards the Fidler contract. The rest of the money will come from the County Clerk's budget and special funds. Joe Wills second this motion. Motion was passed by vote.

### **3. Discussion and possible approval to set the number of Sheriff Deputies on staff. (Exhibit E, F & G)**

Discussion: Doug Knebel made the motion to create an ordinance for the County Sheriff's Office for 10 full-time deputies. The state law requires the number of deputies to be on a Sheriff's staff. The board sets the maximum number of deputies for the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff is requesting 2 additional full-time deputies for a total of 10 full-time deputies and there will be no part-time deputies. This will immediately require squad cars and salaries after ordinance is completed. Patrick Click second this motion. Motion was passed by vote.

### **4. Discussion and possible approval of an agreement for a school resource officer.**

Discussion: Doug Knebel made the motion to move this item to Committee #6 (County Liquor, Resource, Sheriff, Judiciary, Rules & Regulations). The County Sheriff invites the schools and Mayors to the Committee #6 meeting. The Chairmen and Sheriff met with the Ramsey School; the county will want to do this for all of the Fayette County Schools. The Referendum from 2024 General Primary passed the use of 1% sales tax to cover this. Vandalia Community High School has set precedence for municipalities to cover the School Resource Officer position. Patrick Click second this motion. Motion was passed by vote.

**Board Member's Comments and Non-Action Items:**

Glenda Bartels told the board that Ms. McClintock is leaving her position at CEFS.

Merrell Collins informed the board about the Special Use Committee Ordinance Update.

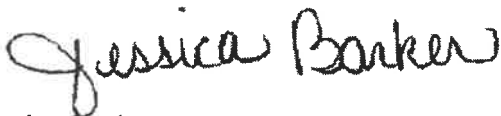
Jessica Barker informed the board about Joshua Morrison's mom passing away and the County Department heads will do a walk through at the funeral.

Jacob Harris mentioned that Public Building Commission has had a discussion to the hire the Goldberg Group, this will be on the agenda for next month.

**Adjournment:**

Ashley Towler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glenda Bartels seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

**Submitted:**



Jessica Barker

Fayette County Clerk and Recorder

Exhibit A



Fayette County, IL

# Fueling Station Revenue Impact Study

Proposal: Fueling Station (Truck Stop)

Location: Interstate 70 on Exit 76 in St. Elmo.

Study Purpose: To identify revenue sources and the financial impact to the County.



Revenue Impact: There are two main revenue impacts to consider that directly affect the County (Property Tax and Sales Tax).

### **Property Tax**

In the plot map attached above, property pin ending in 100-008 off Exit 76 is within the city limits and on a county road.

Comparable Full Land Assessed Value - .16 sq/ft

5-year Average Tax Rate - 8.182422%

The 2022 Tax Rate - 8.03146%



**Sales Tax**

The minimum combined 2024 sales tax rate for St Elmo, Illinois is 7.25%. This is the total of state, county, and city sales tax rates. The state receives 6.25% and the county receives 1%.

<b>Provided Data</b>			
<b>Revenue Stream</b>	<b>Annual Projection</b>	<b>Total Combined Tax</b>	<b>County Tax Revenue</b>
Diesel	\$ 22,745,028.00	\$ 1,649,014.53	\$ -
Gas	\$ 5,891,760.00	\$ 427,152.60	\$ -
Convenience Store	\$ 2,434,812.00	\$ 176,523.87	\$ 24,348.12
Aviator/Food	\$ 601,824.00	\$ 43,632.24	\$ 6,018.24
<b>Tax Revenue</b>			
<b>Revenue Stream</b>	<b>Annual Projection</b>	<b>Total Combined Tax</b>	<b>County Tax Revenue</b>
Food Tax	\$ 68,324.00	\$ 4,953.49	\$ 683.24
Gaming Tax	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 5,220.00	\$ 720.00
<b>Estimated Annual County Revenue</b>		\$	31,769.60

<b>Variable Data Projection (0.7 multiplier)</b>			
<b>Revenue Stream</b>	<b>Annual Projection</b>	<b>Total Combined Tax</b>	<b>County Tax Revenue</b>
Diesel	\$ 15,921,519.60	\$ 1,154,310.17	\$ -
Gas	\$ 4,124,232.00	\$ 299,006.82	\$ -
Convenience Store	\$ 1,704,368.40	\$ 123,566.71	\$ 17,043.68
Aviator/Food	\$ 421,276.80	\$ 30,542.57	\$ 4,212.77
<b>Tax Revenue</b>			
<b>Revenue Stream</b>	<b>Annual Projection</b>	<b>Total Combined Tax</b>	<b>County Tax Revenue</b>
Food Tax	\$ 47,826.80	\$ 3,467.44	\$ 478.27
Gaming Tax	\$ 50,400.00	\$ 3,654.00	\$ 504.00
<b>Estimated Annual County Revenue</b>		\$	22,238.72

**Motor Fuel Tax**

MFT Funds are split between the State and Local Agencies. The revenue is minimal with the addition of this fueling station.



## Fayette County Coroner's Office

221 S. Seventh St. • Room 101 • Vandalia, IL 62471

Ofc: (618) 283-5027 • Fax: (618) 283-9103

Email: [coroner@fayettecountyillinois.gov](mailto:coroner@fayettecountyillinois.gov)

TO: Fayette County Board

FROM: David Harris – Fayette County Coroner

Date: May 2, 2024

Subject: Coroner's Salary

I am writing this letter as I am requesting that my salary be increased to \$55,000 per year. In the past, I have made the county board aware that the position of a county coroner is a FULL TIME position as well as an elected one. The salary for the coroner still remains as one paid for a part time position. The coroner is on call 365 days a year and 24 hours a day.

The coroner has the same power as the sheriff. When investigating death scenes, the coroner can subpoena without a court order. Coroners are mandated by law to obtain a minimum of 24 hours of training each year and must annually maintain firearms qualifications. I attend training that I feel is important to my position all the time. This year alone, I have already obtained 52 hours of state certified training.

I handle 99 % of all our county's coroners' calls. One of my deputies covers for me one Saturday and Sunday each month. Even when he covers for me, I still carry the coroner's cell phone as I am constantly called. I take hospice calls even when the deputy covers for me. Every

time there is an autopsy, I am in attendance and this often requires several hours and requires travel out of Fayette County.

My position involves lots of paperwork. In addition to all the paperwork involved with a case, I also have to fill out numerous other forms. If there is a fatal vehicle accident, I am required to fill out an SR-8 for the state. My office also issues cremation permits to funeral homes. We send in reports to various agencies on statistics relating to accidents, suicides, and drug related deaths.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I will have been the Fayette County Coroner for 6 years. I would like the Fayette County Board to consider seriously the salary paid to the county coroner. My beginning salary in 2018 was roughly \$27,000. After six years, my salary is now \$31,000. Other counties have raised the coroner's salary but Fayette County Coroner salary's scale is still the same. The Effingham Coroner's salary was just raised to \$62,000 which is now twice my current salary. I do not have county paid insurance but I am reimbursed for my Medicare supplemental. This saves the county approximately \$9300 per year.

I would appreciate your time and consideration to this request. I feel that not only have I brought professionalism to this office, but I have a great working relationship with my fellow law enforcement officers and I feel that I have improved the integrity of the Coroner's Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David K. Harris". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

David K. Harris



*Kathy Emerick*  
FAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK  
4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT CIRCUIT COURT  
221 SOUTH 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET, VANDALIA, IL 62471

April 25, 2024

Fayette County Board  
221 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Vandalia, IL 62471

Dear Members of the Fayette County Board:

I write to you today to urge you to re-assess the current salary of our Fayette County Coroner, Dave Harris. Coroner Harris receives a salary that is considerably less than that of Coroners in surrounding counties, yet expectations of his office are equal, and often more than, that of nearby Coroners. It is noteworthy that the General responsibilities of the Coroner are:

- Pronounce death and determine what time the death occurred. ...
- Scene Investigation. ...
- Take Custody of the Body. ...
- Make Positive Identification of the Deceased. ...
- Identification and Notification of Next of Kin. ...
- Discovery of Remains. ...
- Death Certificates. ...
- Reports.

Since taking Office, Mr. Harris has reduced the line item for his deputies: First because he takes little time away from his role as Coroner. Second, because he only pays his deputies when they are asked to take call, not when they are simply on retainer for potential calls, as was the policy before. Coroner Harris not only personally attends the vast majority of all coroner calls, he leads all investigations, completes all required forms and facilitates all interactions between Fayette County and the funeral homes. Mr. Harris frequently goes above and beyond what is expected for families/friends of the deceased, as well as on the behalf of Fayette County. I frequently hear families talking about the compassionate, personal care they have received from Coroner Harris during what is one of the most difficult times in their life. Additionally, Mr. Harris was able to make a compelling appeal for funding to purchase a cooler that would be housed at our local hospital with no lease charge. With the purchase of this cooler, which can hold up to 3 bodies at one time, the expense of

**transporting & holding bodies at facilities outside of our county was almost completely eliminated.**

**At one point Fayette County was facing the likelihood that there would be no candidate for the Coroner's Office. Therefore, I know that we are all grateful to have Dave filling this role. I think that we can further agree that Fayette County would struggle to pay him what he has been and continues to be worth to this county. I sincerely hope that we can also agree that our Coroner, Dave Harris, deserves and should receive the raise he is asking for. His raise would be consistent with ILCS 5/4-6002, in that the raise would be in addition to the compensation his office receives for clerical, stationery, fuel and other expenses.**

**With a Sincere Thanks for Your Time and Consideration,**

**Kathy Emerick  
Fayette County Circuit Clerk**



OFFICE OF  
STATE'S ATTORNEY  
FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
221 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS 62471  
PHONE: (618) 283-5040 FAX: (618) 283-9302

Brenda M. Mathis  
State's Attorney

Jessica Carr-Martin  
Asst State's Attorney

April 29, 2024

Jacob Harris  
Fayette County Chair  
Fayette County Board  
221 S Seventh Street  
Vandalia, Illinois 62471

Re: Letter of Support for Coroner's Raise

Dear Jake:

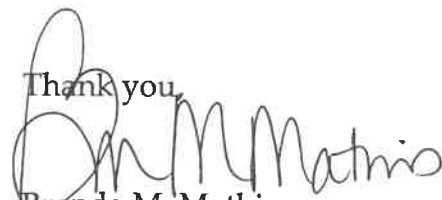
This letter is written in support of the Fayette County Coroner receiving a raise for his duties. The Coroner's current salary is \$28,000.00. The Coroner's position is not a part-time position but an elected position and should be treated as such for salary purposes. The Coroner is on-call 24/7, 365 days a year - a job that most individuals would receive overtime or alternative compensation for working outside of the normal business hours.

Dave has made outstanding changes since taking office, such as cutting costs with Deputies as he pays them when they work, but handles the bulk of the case load on his own so that it keeps costs down. He has organized the coroner's evidence locker and cleaned out items that needed to be returned to families. He made the Coroner's office accessible by having office hours and ensuring that he is reachable when needed. He worked with the hospital to purchase and install a cooler, which was something that was much needed for the County.

Outside of the changes he has made, he is also the Vice President of the Illinois Coroner's Association and assists other coroners in their training and the execution of their jobs. His professionalism and hard work has helped countless families to gain closure during the most difficult times they have faced.

Dave's statutory requirements are different than any other county elected official as he is tasked with death investigations, the handling of remains, the issuance of death certificates, and the countless hospice phone calls. This is a job that few are qualified for and fewer are willing to do. Fayette County needs to ensure that we can retain good, quality individuals in positions that benefit our County.

It is appropriate for the County to recognize that the Coroner's job is not a part-time job but a full-time elected career and the salary imposed for this position needs to match the time, effort, and energy that is expended to ensure the job is done properly.

Thank you,  
  
Brenda M. Mathis

# FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

221 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
VANDALIA, IL 62471



PHONE: (618) 283-2141  
FAX: (618) 283-5014

*Sheriff Ronnie Stevens*

*Chief Deputy Steven Coody*

Re: SRO Program

- Deputy shall have SRO Certification
- Deputy shall have Juvenile Officer Certification
- Five (5) year Deputy salary is currently \$57,216.49/\$27.51 hr.
- County Benefits package consists of:
  1. Health-\$11,615.88
  2. Dental-\$380.40
  3. Vision-\$145.68
  4. Life-\$57.60
  5. FICA 6.20%-\$3,547.42
  6. MC 1.45%-\$829.64
  7. IMRF 7.50%-\$4,291.24

Total-\$78,084.35

75% Share-\$58,563.26

25% Share-\$19,521.09

Vandalia SRO Programs that have been adopted.

- "I Love U Guys" Foundation Standard Response Plan
- "Handle with Care" Model

2023-2024 Deputy Shift Coverage

		Full Time Coverage	Part Time Coverage
January	23'	\$5,050.46 @ 108 Hours	\$1,810.46 @ 78 Hours
February	23'	\$1,090.44 @ 24 Hours	\$1,086.24 @ 48 Hours
March	23'	\$1,139.61 @ 24 Hours	\$543.12 @ 24 Hours
April	23'	\$1,585.67 @ 24 Hours	\$1,108.87 @ 36 Hours
May	23'	\$4,032.01 @ 96 Hours	\$543.12 @ 24 Hours
June	23'	\$3,098.81 @ 72 Hours	\$1,742.51 @ 77 Hours
July	23'	\$1,617.52 @ 36 Hours	\$814.68 @ 36 Hours
August	23'	\$3,691.87 @ 96 Hours	\$1,685.94 @ 86 Hours
September	23'	\$4,509.38 @ 112 Hours	\$1,086.24 @ 48 Hours
October	23'	\$2,531.04 @ 64 Hours	\$3,055.05 @ 132 Hours
November	23'	\$2,364.17 @ 59 Hours	\$4,057.35 @ 168 Hours
December	23'	\$2,937.62 @ 72 Hours	\$814.68 @ 36 Hours
January	24'	\$3,006.58 @ 72 Hours	\$3,818.81 @ 192 Hours
February	24'	\$7,067.12 @ 168 Hours	\$1,267.28 @ 60 Hours
March	24'	\$5,210.92 @ 120 Hours	\$543.12 @ 24 Hours
Total	23'	\$33,648.60 @ 787 Hours	\$18,348.06 @ 793 Hours
	24'	\$15,284.62 @ 360 Hours	\$5,629.21 @ 276 Hours

Sheriff/Chief Deputy worked 130 hours of shift coverage to maintain two Deputies on shift.

Grand Total of \$72,910.49 @ 2,286Hours

2023-2024 Corrections Shift Coverage

		Full Time Coverage	Part Time Coverage
January	23'	\$3,927.09	\$440.40
February	23'	\$2,273.85	\$1,552.75
March	23'	\$1,636.28	\$807.40
April	23'	\$3,592.28	\$1,541.40
May	23'	\$2,663.23	\$1,171.26
June	23'	No O/T	\$2,464.43
July	23'	No O/T	\$4,660.90
August	23'	No O/T	\$5,023.32 O/T \$110.10
September	23'	No O/T	\$5,293.98 O/T \$1,417.54
October	23'	No O/T	\$2,046.03 O/T \$144.51
November	23'	\$752.40	\$4,361.98
December	23'	\$2,089.98	\$2,601.11 O/T \$165.15
January	24'	\$1,722.11	\$5,284.81 O/T \$137.62
February	24'	\$239.95	\$6,170.38 O/T \$1,458.83
March	24'	\$639.30	\$7,005.12 O/T \$1,135.71
Total	23'	\$16,935.11	\$31,964.96 O/T \$1,837.30
	24'	\$2,601.36	\$18,460.31 O/T \$2,732.16

Since January 1<sup>st</sup> C/O Navel has been on PEDAs. The C/O's tend to burn the time as soon as they get it.

Grand Total of \$74,531.20