**FAYETTE COUNTY**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday May 6, 2025**

**Convene**

Jacob Harris, Chairperson, called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at the Vandalia City Hall, 431 W Gallatin St, Vandalia, Illinois, 62471 on May 6, 2025 at 6:32 p.m.

**Attendance**

Michael Black, *Absent*; Michael L. Butts, *Present*; Patrick Click, *Present*; Merrell H. Collins, *Present*; Jacob Harris, *Present*; District 6, *Vacant*; Mack Payne, *Present*; Scott L. Ray, *Present*; Ryan Tompkins, *Present*; Ashley Towler, *Present*; James Wehrle, *Present*; Joe A. Wills, *Present*;Sean Hannagan, *Present*; Jaqueline Durr, *Present.*

**Approval of Prior Minutes from April 4, 2025**

Mack Payne made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Joe Wills second the motion.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Administrator Report**

Justin Greeley, Bellwether is working on routine HR items this week as well as the budget ordinance that is on the agenda.

**Persons to Address Board**

**Discussion of Financial Issues**

1. **Discussion and possible approval of Ordinance 2025-05-06-A amend budgeted expense for Panic Buttons.**

Discussion. Justin Greeley, Bellwether, said that this was a budgeted expense. Since the panic button expense was greater than originally thought, this ordinance is to show that on paper.

1. **Discussion and possible approval of CASA Funding.**

Discussion. Patrick Click, Board Member, said that Doug Knebel and I attended a presentation given by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) where the presenter said they are receiving funds from other counties from the opioid relief money. Justin Greeley, said that all of the opioid relief money has not been distributed from the state yet. The States Attorney, Brenda Mathis, is at liberty to approve all use of funds. He believes that currently, the county has available around $30,000 after the purchase of the fully equipped drug patrol vehicle. The CASA representative Zoe, said that they started CASA in Fayette County in 2024. The basis of what CASA is are volunteers assigned to child cases to advocate for the children. They intend to be the one consistent person in the child’s life. These volunteers check in with the children in all aspects of their lives. In their foster homes, school, or therapy. The volunteer then compiles findings into a fact based report to give to the judge. Currently there are 130 kids in foster care from Fayette County. With one volunteer currently. Zoe said that 80% of their money is grant money, the other 20% is fundraisers, county support, and private donations. This funding request is a one time thing.

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

Merrell Collins, Board member, said that there are a lot of upcoming Solar projects. There will be a hearing next Tuesday. These solar and wind projects are not going away. Patrick Click mentioned a letter that all board members received that expressed concern from adjacent land owners regarding an upcoming project. Merrell Collins said that he has spoke with these land owners and answered any questions they have. They were going to reach out to the solar company and receive additional information. Patrick Click mentioned that Solar and Wind projects are very similar to the various Oil wells or pipelines in the county. The previous boards didn’t tell those land owners what to do with their property. It is a government overreach to do so.

**Adjournment:**

Joe Wills made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Hannagan second the motion. The motion passed by vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

**Submitted**:

Jessica Barker

Fayette County Clerk and Recorder