

Chairman Brett Grimm
Kim D. Joesting, Dist. 1
Nancy Proehl, Dist. 1
Mark Goddard, Dist. 1
Kaden Nelms, Dist. 1
Nick Graff, Dist. 2
Greg Menold, Dist. 2
Greg Sinn, Dist. 2
Eric Schmidgall, Dist. 3
Dave Mingus, Dist. 3
Tammy Rich-Stimson, Dist. 3



John C. Ackerman
County Clerk

Vice Chairman, Michael Harris, Dist. 3
Jay Hall, Dist. 1
Deene Milam, Dist. 1
Joe Woodrow, Dist. 1
Jon Hopkins, Dist. 2
Maxwell Schneider, Dist. 2
Cathryn Stump, Dist. 2
Eric Stahl, Dist. 2
Russ Crawford, Dist. 3
Aaron Phillips, Dist. 3
Greg Longfellow, Dist. 3

**SPECIAL TAEWELL COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2025
6:00 PM**

**James Carius Community Room, Tazewell Law & Justice Center,
101 S. Capitol Street, Pekin, Illinois 61554**

ROLL CALL BY COUNTY CLERK

Attendance was taken by Roll Call, and the following members of the board were present: Chairman Grimm, Vice Chairman Harris, Members Crawford, Goddard, Hall, Hopkins, Joesting, Longfellow, Menold, Milam, Mingus, Phillips, Proehl, Rich-Stimson, Schmidgall, Schneider, Sinn, Stahl, Stump, Woodrow – 20. Absent: Members Graff, Nelms– 2.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member Grimm led the invocation followed by Chairman Grimm leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND/OR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

No communication from members of the public or county employees.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED & APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

Member Crawford stated he was in favor of progress and the criminal justice system but voiced concern on the need to protect the county general fund.

Update/Discussion: New Justice Center Annex

Chairman Grimm spoke on the new annex and indicated bids were going out within the next few weeks. He stated the previous board had approved the annex with four board members that are no longer on the Tazewell County Board and the vote was 12 Yeas and 7 Nays. He discussed that the new board recently held Strategic Planning

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Meetings, which discussed a salary study, a new animal control building, and repairs on current buildings. Therefore, Chairman Grimm provided a handout with building options of the current proposed three-story building or a new option of just a two-story annex. He voiced concerns with the software upgrades that are needed in the county and the uncertainty with state or federal funding.

Tazewell County Circuit Clerk Lincoln Hopson spoke on the process of the options presented. He provided a handout, which was a letter from two years ago asking for the construction of the Justice Center Annex, signed by the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge, Tazewell County Presiding Judge, Tazewell County Resident Judge, Tazewell County Circuit Clerk, Tazewell County State's Attorney, Tazewell County Sheriff and Tazewell County Public Defender.

Tazewell County Circuit Clerk Finance Manager Caleb Zobrist provided an overview of the previous discussions in the early stages of the planning process for the annex project. He informed the board of the technology push from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the use of Artificial Intelligence by judges and judicial staff. He indicated the Circuit Clerk has received over \$2 million in grants to assist with technology.

Discussion took place in regard to meeting the technology needs within the current courthouse. It was explained that the expansion of additional wi-fi has helped. Judge Doscotch stated Heart Technologies has helped improve the technology at the courthouse. He indicated the main reason for the Justice Center Annex was for safety concerns.

Discussions turned into concern over the need for a third floor and additional cost for construction. Several board members expressed support for the proposed third floor addition, while other members expressed concern with the cost.

Chairman Grimm indicated this building would be a positive for the county and he was just looking for a consensus to move forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was determined the board had no unfinished business at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Grimm thanked everyone for their time and commitment to Tazewell County.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Grimm announced the meeting adjourned. The Special Tazewell County Board Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM. The next scheduled County Board meeting will be April 30, 2025.