

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF MADISON)

Proceedings of the County Board of Madison County, Illinois, at the Reorganizational session of said Board held at the Administration Building in the City of Edwardsville, in the County and State aforesaid on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 5:00 P.M. and held for the transaction of county business.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The Reorganizational Meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chris Slusser, Chairman of the Board, to conduct the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Pastor Larry Rhodes led the opening prayer.

* * * * *

Linda Andreas, County Clerk and Clerk of the Board, read the Notice of Reorganizational Meeting.

**NOTICE OF REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
COUNTY BOARD
MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Madison County Board will be held at its Board Room in the Administration Building in Edwardsville, in said County, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., Central Standard Time, on Monday, December 2, 2024.

A Reorganizational Meeting of said County Board will be held at the time and place aforesaid for the following purpose:

1. Public Comment
2. Seating of Newly Elected Board Members
3. Resolution Concerning Appointment of Chrissy Wiley to Fill the Vacancy in County Board District #14
4. Appointment of Mick Madison for Madison County Chairperson Pro Tem
5. Approval of Committee Assignments
6. Resolution Establishing Madison County Board Meeting Dates
7. Resolution Appointing Mike Babcock to Fill the Vacancy in the Office of Madison County Treasurer

Dated at Edwardsville this 29th day of November 2024.

s/ Linda A. Andreas
County Clerk and Clerk of the Board

* * * * *

Available for review was the Certificate of Publication and the Certificates of Election.

* * * * *

County Clerk Andreas swore the following members in:

Frank Dickerson, District #3
Linda Ogden, District #7
Donald McMaster, District #12
Brynn Kincheloe, District #13
Terry Eaker, District #15

Linda Wolfe, District #22
Paul Nicolussi, District #23
Fred Schulte, District #24
Chris Guy, District #25
Jason Palmero, District #26

* * * * *

The roll was called by Linda Andreas, County Clerk, showing the following members present:

PRESENT: Fred Michael, Stacey Pace, Frank Dickerson, Bobby Ross, Mick Madison, Valerie Doucleff, Linda Ogden, Michael "Doc" Holliday, Bill Stoutenborough, Dalton Gray, Donald McMaster, Brynn Kincheloe, Terry Eaker, Robert Meyer, Victor Valentine, Alison Lamothe, Nick Petrillo, Denise Wiehardt, John Janek, Linda Wolfe, Paul Nicolussi, Fred Schulte, Chris Guy, and Jason Palmero

REMOTE: None

ABSENT: Shawndell Wilson

VACANT: District #14

* * * * *

Chairman Slusser: This is my first meeting, so bear with me a little bit. 16 years ago, I sat in the same seat where you guys are, and then eight years ago, I came up to be sworn in at a meeting as county treasurer, and we're going to do that again tonight, so this is kind of like deja vu, but I'm sitting in a different seat. I'm excited to have you all here as a part of the board. Welcome all new members and family members. This is an exciting time to have you all here so welcome to the board meeting. Do we have any speakers signed up for public comment? Would anyone like to make public comment?

No public comment.

* * * * *

The following item was submitted and read:

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE VACANCY IN
COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT #14**

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the Madison County Board for County Board District #14 due to the resignation of Mike Babcock on December 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Chrissy Wiley has been recommended for consideration and appointment to fill this vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Madison County, Illinois, that Chrissy Wiley, 201 Eisenhower Drive, Bethalto, Illinois, 62010, be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mike Babcock, County Board Member, District #14.

DATED this 2nd day of December, 2024.

s/ Chris Slusser
Chris Slusser
Madison County Board Chairman

s/ Linda A. Andreas
Linda A. Andreas
Madison County Clerk

On the question:

Chairman Slusser: I've known Chrissy since high school. She replaced me on the county board in 2016 when I got sworn in as treasurer, so that's happening again tonight. Mike Babcock, who we're going to appoint and swear in here shortly, had to vacate his seat on the county board to do so. So now we have to fill his seat on the county board. Chrissy had moved out of her district four years ago into a different district. Well, she happens to be in the district where Mr. Babcock is vacating. There's no real learning curve for her, and we thought she was a wonderful choice. She's a graduate of Roxana High School, Lewis and Clark Community College, and University of Missouri, St. Louis. She is currently an instructor in the Dental Hygiene Program at Lewis and Clark Community College. Her husband Tom and her children are all here. Are all four of them here? Okay, three of them are here, DJ is away at college.

Mr. Nicolussi moved, seconded by Ms. Pace to approve the item as presented.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Michael, Pace, Dickerson, Ross, Madison, Doucleff, Ogden, Holliday, Stoutenborough, Gray, McMaster, Kincheloe, Eaker, Meyer, Valentine, Lamothe, Petrillo, Wiehardt, Janek, Wolfe, Nicolussi, Schulte, Guy, Palmero

NAYS: None

AYES: 24. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing item duly adopted.

* * * * *

County Clerk Andreas swore Ms. Wiley in as County Board Member in District #14.

* * * * *

The roll was called by Linda Andreas, County Clerk, showing the following members present:

PRESENT: Fred Michael, Stacey Pace, Frank Dickerson, Bobby Ross, Mick Madison, Valerie Doucleff, Linda Ogden, Michael "Doc" Holliday, Bill Stoutenborough, Dalton Gray, Donald McMaster, Brynn Kincheloe, Chrissy Wiley, Terry Eaker, Robert Meyer, Victor Valentine, Alison Lamothe, Nick Petrillo, Denise Wiehardt, John Janek, Linda Wolfe, Paul Nicolussi, Fred Schulte, Chris Guy, and Jason Palmero

* * * * *

Mr. Gray moved, seconded by Mr. Kincheloe to appoint Mick Madison as Chairperson Pro Tem.

On the question:

Chairman Slusser: Mick has done a wonderful job these past two years for no extra pay. You've just been a great public servant the last couple years, and you've been a big help to the entire county. Your role will hopefully be a little different this time, and a little more peaceful and quiet back to where the pro tem used to be in the past

Mr. Eaker: I want to say Mick has done a wonderful job these last couple years in a position he was put in. I really think he deserves a big round of applause.

Mr. Madison: Thanks, everyone.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to appoint Mick Madison as Chairperson Pro Tem resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Michael, Pace, Dickerson, Ross, Madison, Doucleff, Ogden, Holliday, Stoutenborough, Gray, McMaster, Kincheloe, Wiley, Eaker, Meyer, Valentine, Lamothe, Petrillo, Wiehardt, Janek, Wolfe, Nicolussi, Schulte, Guy, Palmero

NAYS: None

AYES: 25. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing motion duly adopted.

* * * * *

The following committee assignments were submitted and read:

BUILDING & ZONING	CENTRAL SERVICES	EXECUTIVE
<i>1st Tuesday @ 5:00 pm</i>	<i>2nd Wednesday @ 4:15 pm</i>	<i>As Needed</i>
Mick Madison, Chair	Frank Dickerson, Chair	Chris Slusser, Chair
Frank Dickerson	Bobby Ross	Bobby Ross
Bobby Ross	Mick Madison	Denise Wiehardt
Terry Eaker	Don McMaster	Chris Guy
Nick Petrillo	Brynn Kincheloe	Stacey Pace
John Janek	Linda Wolfe	Terry Eaker
Fred Michael	Paul Nicolussi	Mick Madison
	Fred Michael	Dalton Gray
		Doc Holliday
		Chrissy Wiley
		Frank Dickerson

FINANCE & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS	GOVERNMENT RELATIONS	GRANTS
<i>2nd Thursday @ 4:00 pm</i>	<i>As Needed</i>	<i>1st Tuesday @ 4:00 pm</i>
Chris Guy, Chair	Stacey Pace, Chair	Denise Wiehardt, Chair
Mick Madison	Terry Eaker	Stacey Pace
Linda Ogden	Linda Ogden	Frank Dickerson
Dalton Gray	Shawndell Wilson	Valerie Doucleff
Bob Meyer	Dalton Gray	Shawndell Wilson
John Janek	Alison Lamothe	Victor Valentine
Linda Wolfe	Denise Wiehardt	Alison Lamothe
Jason Palmero	Jason Palmero	Fred Schulte

HEALTH DEPARTMENT	JUDICIARY	PERSONNEL & LABOR RELATIONS
<i>2nd Wednesday @ 3:00 pm</i>	<i>1st Thursday @ 3:00 pm</i>	<i>2nd Thursday @ 5:00 pm</i>
Doc Holliday, Chair	Chrissy Wiley, Chair	Dalton Gray, Chair
Bill Stoutenborough	Doc Holliday	Frank Dickerson
Don McMaster	Don McMaster	Valerie Doucleff
Brynn Kincheloe	Brynn Kincheloe	Dalton Gray
Chrissy Wiley	Nick Petrillo	Victor Valentine
Paul Nicolussi	Fred Schulte	John Janek
Jason Palmero	Chris Guy	Linda Wolfe
		Chris Guy

PUBLIC SAFETY	SEWER FACILITIES	TRANSPORTATION
<i>2nd Monday @ 3:00 pm</i>	<i>1st Monday @ 4:00 pm</i>	<i>1st Wednesday @ 4:00 pm</i>
Terry Eaker, Chair	Denise Wiehardt, Chair	Bobby Ross, Chair
Stacey Pace	Shawndell Wilson	Fred Michael
Valerie Doucleff	Bob Meyer	Doc Holliday
Linda Ogden	Nick Petrillo	Paul Nicolussi
Bill Stoutenborough	John Janek	Victor Valentine
Chrissy Wiley	Fred Schulte	Linda Wolfe
Bob Meyer	Jason Palmero	Fred Schulte
Alison Lamothe		Jason Palmero

Mr. Holliday moved, seconded by Mr. Janek to approve the committee assignments as presented.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Michael, Pace, Dickerson, Ross, Madison, Doucleff, Ogden, Holliday, Stoutenborough, Gray, McMaster, Kincheloe, Wiley, Eaker, Meyer, Valentine, Lamothe, Petrillo, Wiehardt, Janek, Wolfe, Nicolussi, Schulte, Guy, Palmero

NAYS: None

AYES: 25. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing committee assignments duly adopted.

* * * * *

The following item was submitted and read:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COUNTY BOARD MEETING DATES

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish the dates and times for the regular monthly meetings of the Madison County Board for the 2024-2026 period; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Madison County Board to continue with the current schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Madison County that the regular monthly meetings of the Madison County Board for the next biennium shall be held at 5:00 pm. on the following dates:

December 18, 2024	December 17, 2025
January 15, 2025	January 21, 2026
February 19, 2025	February 18, 2026
March 19, 2025	March 18, 2026
April 16, 2025	April 15, 2026
May 21, 2025	May 20, 2026
June 18, 2025	June 17, 2026
July 16, 2025	July 15, 2026
August 20, 2025	August 19, 2026
September 17, 2025	September 16, 2026
October 15, 2025	October 21, 2026
November 19, 2025	November 18, 2026

Adopted this 2nd day of December 2024.

s/ Chris Slusser
Chris Slusser
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

s/ Linda Andreas
Linda Andreas
County Clerk and Clerk of the Board

Mr. Eaker moved, seconded by Mr. Michael to approve the item as presented.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Michael, Pace, Dickerson, Ross, Madison, Doucleff, Ogden, Holliday, Stoutenborough, Gray, McMaster, Kincheloe, Wiley, Eaker, Meyer, Valentine, Lamothe, Petrillo, Wiehardt, Janek, Wolfe, Nicolussi, Schulte, Guy, Palmero

NAYS: None

AYES: 25. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing item duly adopted.

* * * * *

The following item was submitted and read:

**RESOLUTION FILLING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF
MADISON COUNTY TREASURER**

WHEREAS, Section 3-10020 of the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/3-10020) provides that if by reason of resignation of the county treasurer, the said office shall become vacant, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in the Illinois Election Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 25-11 of the Illinois Election Code (55 ILCS 5/25-11) provides that when a vacancy occurs in any elective county office in a county which is not a home rule unit, the vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by appointment of the chair of the county board with the advice and consent of the county board; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of Madison County Treasurer due to the resignation of Chris Slusser; and

WHEREAS, Mike Babcock is recommended for appointment to this vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Madison County, Illinois that Mike Babcock, 2 Hemlock Ct., Bethalto, Illinois, be appointed to the office of Madison County Treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Chris Slusser, effective immediately, and to vest in him all statutory duties assigned to this office.

Dated at Edwardsville, IL this 2nd day of December 2024.

s/ Chris Slusser
Chris Slusser
Madison County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

s/ Linda A. Andreas
Linda A. Andreas
Madison County Clerk

On the question:

Chairman Slusser: Mike's been a great Board Member. He's been a Township Supervisor for the last 16 years. He's finishing up his last term there. Mike's a good friend. I've known him for a very long time. He's been a good mentor to me over the years, and this office is obviously near and dear to my heart since I held the office for eight years, and I care deeply about the staff there. We've done some good things and want to keep that momentum going. So I wanted to find someone who I knew could fill that seat and kind of do things similarly to the way I did and also keep the investment portfolio rolling. And Mike does have extensive investment experience, and his company, Babcock and Associates, where he does insurance and investments, he's been in that for about 30 years, so he's very experienced. And I just could not think of a better pick for the seat. I also wanted someone who was not going to just be a two-year place filler, because it's important to the staff in these offices that there's some continuity going forward, so they're not constantly

having to change everything every two years or so. Mike will have to get reelected in two years, but his plan is to continue on.

Mr. Guy moved, seconded by Mr. Kincheloe to appoint Mike Babcock as Madison County Treasurer.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Michael, Pace, Dickerson, Ross, Madison, Doucleff, Ogden, Holliday, Stoutenborough, Gray, McMaster, Kincheloe, Wiley, Eaker, Meyer, Valentine, Lamothe, Petrillo, Wiehardt, Janek, Wolfe, Nicolussi, Schulte, Guy, Palmero

NAYS: None

AYES: 25. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing item duly adopted.

* * * * *

Associate Judge Andrew Carruthers swore Mike Babcock in as Madison County Treasurer.

Mr. Babcock: First of all, I want to thank Andy for being here and swearing me in, because it was about 14 years ago, if I'm not mistaken that we walked together, and that's when I first met Andy, and he's been not only my personal attorney, but also someone that I trust and appreciate so much. Can you give him a round of applause please for being here and being a judge. Thank you. First of all, I would like to thank my wife Carol for enduring a 16-year journey with me in this political arena. She's been a godly, strong person that has been there for me for five wins and three brutal losses. And when I say brutal, they were brutal. She went crazy, quite frankly. She was so upset but thank God she's still okay. I ran for state senate and state rep twice. During this last 16 years, my wife and I raised three boys and could not be prouder of each of them for whom they have become in the fields they are working for today, all three boys, and I'm so proud of them. I just want to share accomplishments that they've accomplished. All three boys have or will have an MBA, two of them have MBAs at schools such as St Louis University, Washington U my wife's alma mater, and University of Illinois, of which all three I think are just class act schools. Each of my boys worked on my races and my state races. I think Jonathan, my son, would tell you, and the other two couldn't be here because they got babies and they couldn't be here, unfortunately, a Christmas pageant program, as a matter of fact. But John has helped me immensely on our campaigns, and he actually is in private equity now, and he learned all the sales aspects from his father right here, but he got all the looks from his mother. God bless her. Each of my boys worked on my state races. I couldn't be prouder of them than I am right now. I have four grandchildren, and yes, it's true what they say about grand babies, they are so much better than your own children, like 100% better. And I love my kids. The next person I would like to thank is Chris Slusser for not only being my friend for the last 16 years, but also my campaign director on several of my campaigns. He is a fantastic family man. Yeah, they were all winning, quite frankly, I'll never go without Chris again. He is a fantastic family man and his wife, Megan, she's wonderful. I love Megan and the two children that they adopted, Annabelle and Zoe, are awesome. I love those kids. They went out on a boat with us this past summer, and they're just a beautiful family. Also, I want to thank Chris for this great opportunity he is providing me. After losing the state rep position by 285 votes in 2018, I thought I might throw in the towel and not run anymore. However, I chose to run one more township race, and it kept me there long enough to get appointed to the county board. I must be honest with you; the county board position was much harder than I thought it would be. And so I'm saying this to you county board members. It is difficult. It's very stressful. I've shared some of the information with my wife on many occasions, and it stressed me out quite a bit, and I can tolerate quite a bit, quite frankly, but sometimes it was very difficult. There were times when I was totally stressed out about how to vote. Then I would call my close friends on the board, like Stacey, Mick, Eric, Terry, Chris, Dalton, Fred, Erica, Bobby, Denise, Ryan, Jason, Bob, and

pretty much all the rest of you too, quite frankly, because it really helped, quite frankly, to call people and make sure that I wasn't crazy, because the stress was extremely difficult. I think it's important to know and understand everybody in the audience. I think it's important to know and understand this job is not easy. It's difficult. And if it was easy, anybody could do it, and anybody could run for a seat and win it, but they can't. You're there for a reason, and God has you there for a reason. I want to say thank you to all the board members as well. Your job shouldn't be easy when you're looking after taxpayers' money. I want to say this loud and clear and keep it till the day I die. We serve the taxpayer. Our bosses are the taxpayers, and they deserve our full attention. This is why I want to say to every county wide elected official, thank you for spending where it makes sense and saving where it doesn't. You can help the county board. The county board has voted eight years in a row. Right, Mick? Am I correct in saying that eight years in a row we voted for no tax increases, right? And Mick, the last two years, you've done a fantastic job. And I just want to say thank you personally up here. I would be remiss if I didn't mention my buddy, Tom McRae. I met Tom over 20 years ago, and I think it was even a little longer than that when he was running against Rudy Papa. Rudy Papa was very, very popular, by the way, he was a board member in a democrat party and then elected by his peers to become chairman of the county. Rudy was very popular. Tom ran against him. Needless to say, Tom got beat. However, he never gave up. He went on to win the most votes in the Wood River Township race and served there for six years. He was outnumbered on the board by four to one. That didn't stop him from passing a resolution to stop providing free health insurance to people that retired early before age 65 all the way to 65. He was successful at getting four Democrat members to vote with him to stop it. When I won as Township Supervisor, he also helped me to cut the budget without raising taxes. But that wasn't the end. Because of what Tom did, we as a township, had no tax increase for 16 years and a surplus that is three times what it was when I started. That's a very big accomplishment and very difficult to achieve. This year, we vote on a levy at the township that is less than the \$1 million levy we started with. We're actually less than that right now. So after 16 years of increases in pay, of increases in commodities, of increases in almost anything that you do, such as labor, that's important. We must give the increases there, because people need increases on their paychecks. But for all that, we did not raise taxes for 16 years, and it was a blessing, just like you're doing here at the county. So can we give Tom, my mentor, a big round of applause, please. When I say mentor, I would literally call him up at 11 o'clock at night, and he'd pick up that phone because I knew he was there, and he pick up that phone and he would guide me through my thought process to make sure that I wasn't insane, because in this business, you can get insane quite quickly. To every staff person in the Treasurer's Office, I am absolutely looking forward to working with you, and I thank you for the culture that Chris created, a culture of appreciation and a culture of love towards each individual. He treats everyone in there with love and dignity, and I hope to be able to accomplish the same things that Chris did in that office. Finally, I want to thank my friend, Mike Smith, for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with me 43 years ago, September the 19th, 1981. My life was heading, by the way, he's up in that corner. He told me not to point him out, but he's one of my best friends. You see, my life was heading down a dangerous path, a path maybe some of you have experienced. A path based on myself, not one for others. I was reckless as a teenager, and quite frankly, I was lost. But Mike Smith shared the word of truth that I was desperately needing, and actually listened for what seemed to be the first time in my life. He told me that Jesus loved me even if I was the only one on this earth Christ died for after having the rough night I had the night before. If I told you that story, you wouldn't believe me, you wouldn't believe I'm still here. Sheriff Connor would probably kick me out of the building. It was a bad night. I made a decision to trust in Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. I share that story with you because that night was the beginning of the whole new me. So if you are down and you feel like life is not going your way, just remember, if he can save me from where I've been, he can save you. So I just want to say thank you to all the board members, and thank you for everybody here for just listening to me. And God bless you all. Have a Merry Christmas and thank you.

* * * * *

Clerk Andreas: As a closing remark, please utilize the calendar on the county's website for dates and times of the upcoming meetings. Thank you.

Chairman Slusser: Our next meeting will be on the 18th, at five o'clock. And make sure you check those calendars like she said for the committee meetings, we cleared it out, I believe this week of all committee meetings, so they will start next week. Liz will send out that schedule to everyone.

* * * * *

Mr. Gray moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to adjourn the Reorganizational Meeting at 5:25 PM.
MOTION CARRIED.

* * * * *