

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD**  
**Special Board Meeting**

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  ) SS  
COUNTY OF MADISON )

Proceedings of the County Board of Madison County, Illinois, as the recessed session of said Board held at the Nelson "Nellie" Hagnauer County Board Room in the Administration Building in the City of Edwardsville, in the County and State aforesaid on said Thursday, December 23, 2021 and held for the transaction of special business.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021**  
**5:00 PM**  
**SPECIAL SESSION**

The Board met pursuant to recess taken December 15, 2021.

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The meeting was called to order by Kurt Prenzler, Chairman of the Board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all members of the Board.

The Roll Call was called by Debra Ming-Mendoza, County Clerk, showing the following members present:

PRESENT: Kuhn, Meyer, Ross, Madison, Holliday, Malone, Gray, King, Hankins, Messner, Wiehardt, Foster, Petrillo, Glasper, Goggin, Guy, Harriss, Dalton, and Kneedler

REMOTE: Stoutenborough and Walters

ABSENT: Pace, Doucleff, Pollard, Babcock, Eaker, Valentine, and Minner

VACANT: District 27

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Madison to allow Mr. Stoutenborough and Mr. Walters to participate remotely.

**VOICE VOTE BY ALL MEMBERS.**

\*Mr. Stoutenborough and Mr. Walters entered the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

**JESSICA MYERS' ADDRESS TO THE BOARD**

County Board Members and Attendees, I am here tonight because less than 24 hours ago, I read an article online announcing Madison County's intent to sell approximately 15 acres of land that is adjacent to the Edwardsville Crossing Shopping Center. This land is currently green space in town, and borders one of the MCT Trails, which I currently frequent and enjoy. This article moved me and motivated me to come here, outside my comfort zone, and speak today in hope to take advantage and voice my concerns, and possibly open a dialogue in the community. The part of the article that struck me the most was where Chairman Prenzler's sentiments were shared, stating the value of the property has increased through the years, and is a prime location for development due to adjacent property's economic growth. I know I am not alone in my concerns of additional economic and commercial development in Edwardsville, especially big box stores, and especially in light of the Orchard Town Center's the new Menards project which is underway. Many in this community, including myself, live here and travel here to enjoy this town's esthetics, which is a commercially developed area, but one that is offset by green space, natural landscape for wildlife and spaces for families to enjoy outdoor activities. This is specifically the reason why I moved to town this year, after living on the outskirts of Edwardsville for over 35 years. I've heard concerns that Edwardsville is going to become the next Fairview Heights, meaning a town that is overly congested and over developed and is no longer perceived as an enjoyable place to visit. It sounds like the sale of this land is in support of a similar vision. As a resident of Edwardsville, I want to state clearly, I do not want that, and I know I am not alone. It is recognized that the sale of the property is well within the county's rights. I would ask that the county consider who is purchasing the land and for what purpose before it is sold. This land is in the heart of the community, and it is the community of Edwardsville that will be impacted. Me personally? I would like to see it maintained as a green space, and have property that preserves the trees that is a natural landscape maintained for wildlife and for families to enjoy outdoor activities. I plan to seek out advocates within and outside the community, to help raise awareness of this activity, and determine how we might approach finding a compromise that best suits the long-term goals of the community in lieu of more commercial development. I would like to encourage the sale of the property to be postponed, and encourage a dialogue between the City of Edwardsville and the community to help decide and understand what the Edwardsville community wants. Thank you.

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**SHEILA VOSS' ADDRESS TO THE BOARD**

You'll hear a lot of similar things from me. We did not exchange notes, I can promise you that. I think the fact that I echo what you just heard says something. My name is Sheila Voss, I live at 213 S. Meadow Ridge Trail, Edwardsville. Technically, that's on the outskirts of the city in unincorporated Madison County, but my family and I have lived here since 2002, almost 20 years. Ever since I graduated from SIUE, I fell in love with Edwardsville and have been here ever since. I'm here tonight, again, to talk about the 15.41 acres at the corner of Plum Street and Governor's Parkway recently put up for auction by the County, and the subject of much concern and spirited exchange in our community. While this is a very specific parcel of land in a very specific location, its story is all too common. A fragment of publicly owned greenspace surrounded by ever-expanding urban development. Voices of local community members speaking up on its behalf, only to be marginalized by a few decision-makers touting economic development and short-term savings. One could insert many cities and towns in this same exact story, that's how ubiquitous this scenario is. Tonight I have no interest in using my 3 minutes telling this board what should be done with this land. There's enough of that flying around, and the back and forth to date on this topic over the past few years has not fostered connection or collaboration in any meaningful way. It has not moved this forward. No, I am here tonight to ask that all of us, this board, fellow citizens, neighbors, and community stakeholders to give ourselves a chance to ponder what could be done with this land. Let me say that again, I have no interest in telling you what should be done, I have every interest in exploring with you what could be done.

More specifically, giving us all a chance, again, to reimagine and co-create what this place could be together. All of us in this room share, while we might have different letters after our names politically, we share a great deal in common. We care about ensuring Madison County communities are healthy, safe, welcoming, and as inclusive as possible. Places where everyone can live, work, and play together. All of us in this room, I'm confident, value clean air and water. The same clean air and water made possible only because of healthy trees, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, creeks, streams, and other urban greenspaces that we're still so fortunate to have in our midst. Counties across the river can't say the same. But regrettably, these incredibly productive places are regarded by bodies like this and willing buyers as undeveloped land, as if they're only worth something if developed. I hate that phrase, undeveloped land. It's one of my pet peeves. This is such a place. I, and many others, are not deaf or blind to the underpinning realities behind why this property is in play. I just ask that we give ourselves a chance to co-create and think about it together. Thank you.

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The following resolution was submitted and read by Mr. Guy:

### **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NEW PRECINCT BOUNDARIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois General Assembly recently passed, and on November 15, 2021, the Governor recently signed, Illinois Public Act 102-0668, which provided several changes to the Illinois Election Code; and

**WHEREAS**, among the changes include a provision that increases the maximum number of registered voters per precinct from 800 to 1,200 and, for year 2021 only, allows County Boards in Illinois to adjust and eliminate precincts to reflect the new maximum provided its done within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the legislation, or by January 14, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in the maximum number of registered voters per precinct from 800 to 1,200 will reduce the total number of precincts in Madison County which shall similarly reduce the cost of administering elections as fewer polling places and election judges will be needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government Relations Committee and the County Board passed another resolution on November 17, 2021 which needs to be revised and replaced as over thirty precincts can now be eliminated and nearly all precincts are in need of adjustment as a result of the increase now permitted by law.

- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Board of Madison County, Illinois that all precincts in Madison County shall be adjusted, renumbered and redescribed as per the attached metes and bounds descriptions labeled as Exhibit A. Further, the Resolution Establishing New Precinct Boundaries passed by the Government Relations Committee and the County Board at their respective meetings on November 17, 2021 shall be superseded and replaced with this Resolution to be considered at the special meeting of the Madison County Board on December 23, 2021.

s/ Chris Guy  
Chris Guy, Committee Chair

s/ Gussie Glasper  
Gussie Glasper

s/ Judy Kuhn  
Judy Kuhn

s/ Erica Harriss  
Erica Harriss

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Robert Pollard

s/ Ryan Kneedler  
Ryan Kneedler

s/ Dalton Gray  
Dalton Gray

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 23, 2021**

On the question:

**Mr. Holliday:** I'm reading where it says for year 2021 only. What is for year 2021 only?

**Mr. Guy:** In the resolution, paragraph 2 there, "include a provision that increases the maximum number of registered voters per precinct from 800 to 1,200 and, for year 2021 only", I know we have to make those changes by then, but it says, "allows County Boards in Illinois to adjust and eliminate precincts to reflect the new maximum provided it's done within sixty (60) days of the effective date" that why we have to make that change.

**Mr. Carruthers:** The language comes straight from statute. Generally, when it comes to adjusting precincts, you can do that every June because we're not limited to doing this just every 10 years. You can do it every June, and so our window to do it for 2021 was back in June. Well the law changed, and now going forward, we're always going to be able to do it in June or July every year. Then, in 2021 only, we have a 60 day window to do what we're doing right now. That's the only reason it's in there. For example, next December, we won't be able to do this, we'll have to stick with the summer schedule. I have to assume the reason the General Assembly wants us to only make the adjustments in the summer is to give the Clerk's Office time to react to those adjustments because it depends on where people vote. That's the reason the language is there, it comes straight from statute.

**Mr. Guy:** When I was working on these precinct changes, Mr. Foster approached me about an amendment change. I did want to commend Fred Michael and Joe Dauderman with the county. They spent hundreds of hours helping up write these legals. Each time we make a precinct change, we have to draft a paragraph to change each precinct. We spent a lot of time doing so. Before we propose this amendment, we had to have legals changed for this. I'll hand it to Mr. Foster.

**Mr. Foster:** I'd like to make a motion to amend precinct 2301 and 2311 as described in the legal description.

**Mr. Prenzler:** Do we have a legal description of what the new legal description would be?

**Mr. Guy:** Yes, we do.

Mr. Foster moved, seconded by Mr. Hankins to amend the resolution.

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

AYES: Kuhn, Meyer, Ross, Madison, Walters, Stoutenborough, Holliday, Malone, Gray, King, Hankins, Messner, Wiehardt, Foster, Petrillo, Glasper, Goggin, Harriss, Dalton, Kneedler

NAYS: Guy

AYES: 20. NAYS: 1. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing resolution amended.

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

AYES: Kuhn, Meyer, Ross, Madison, Walters, Stoutenborough, Holliday, Malone, Gray, King, Hankins, Messner, Wiehardt, Foster, Petrillo, Glasper, Goggin, Guy, Harriss, Dalton, Kneedler

NAYS: None

AYES: 21. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing resolution duly adopted.

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The following resolution was submitted and read by Mr. Guy:

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING COUNTY BOARD APPORTIONMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Madison County Board is required to adopt an Apportionment Plan that determines the location of County Board District boundaries as required by the Illinois Counties Code (55 ILCS 5/2-3003), including that the populations among the districts be substantially equal, that the districts shall be comprised of contiguous territory and be as nearly compact as practicable, that townships and municipalities may be divided only when necessary to conform to the population requirement, and shall be created so as not to divide any precinct between two or more districts insofar as is practicable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government Relations Committee and the County Board adopted an Apportionment Plan on November 17, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois General Assembly recently passed, and on November 15, 2021, the Governor recently signed, Illinois Public Act 102-0668, which provided several changes to the Illinois Election Code; and

**WHEREAS**, among the changes include a provision that increases the maximum number of registered voters per precinct from 800 to 1,200 and, for year 2021 only, allows County Boards in Illinois to adjust and eliminate precincts to reflect the new maximum provided its done within sixty (60) days of the effective date of the legislation, or by January 14, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, by separate vote the Government Relations Committee and County Board have adjusted the boundaries of all precincts in Madison County to reflect the new maximum number of registered voters which has reduced the total number of precincts in Madison County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board now needs to revise the Apportionment Plan it adopted on November 17, 2021 as the precincts within each of the 26 County Board Districts have been adjusted and reduced in number; and

**WHEREAS**, the revised Apportionment Plan does not substantially modify the plan adopted on November 17, 2021 other than to reflect the adjustments to the precincts contained within each district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government Relations Committee of the Madison County Board recommends the adoption of the revised Apportionment Plan contained herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Board of Madison County, Illinois that the following components of the Apportionment Plan are hereby adopted for all County Board elections to be held in 2022-2030.

Section 1. The Madison County Board shall consist of 26 single Member Districts.

Section 2. The 26 single County Board Member Districts shall consist of the precincts as reflected on **Exhibit I** contained herein.

Section 3. The County Board Chairman shall continue to be elected at large as mandated by the voters of Madison County by referendum.

Section 4. County Board Members shall continue to be compensated in the form of an annual salary to be established according to the relevant Illinois Statutes by the County Board from time to time.

Section 5. The Resolution Adopting County Board Apportionment Plan passed by the Government Relations Committee and the Madison County Board on November 17, 2021 shall be superseded and replaced by this Resolution, to be considered by the Madison County Board at its special meeting on December 23, 2021.

s/ Chris Guy  
Chris Guy, Committee Chair

s/ Gussie Glasper  
Gussie Glasper

s/ Judy Kuhn  
Judy Kuhn

s/ Erica Harriss  
Erica Harriss

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Robert Pollard

s/ Ryan Kneeder  
Ryan Kneeder

s/ Dalton Gray  
Dalton Gray

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 23, 2021**

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

AYES: Kuhn, Meyer, Ross, Madison, Walters, Stoutenborough, Holliday, Malone, Gray, King, Hankins, Messner, Wiehardt, Foster, Petrillo, Glasper, Goggin, Guy, Harriss, Dalton, Kneedler

NAYS: None

AYES: 21. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing resolution duly adopted.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Guy:** Thank you everybody for joining us during this Christmas time. I know all of us are with friends and family and some of us are working but all of us taking time off to spend with friends and family. We put a lot of hard work into this at the county. Dave Parizon has been working with me since the spring on the maps and it finally came to fruition. Merry Christmas.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Malone moved, seconded by Mr. Guy to recess this special session of the Madison County Board Meeting until Wednesday, January 19, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ATTEST: Debbie Ming-Mendoza  
County Clerk

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