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**October 3, 2013 – Special Meeting**

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**AGENDA**  
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX BUILDING, ROBINSON, IL 62454  
**THURSDAY, October 3, 2013 @ 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence preceding Prayer
4. Roll Call
5. Opening Comments by County Board Chairman
6. Board Explanation & Position on Recent & Future Claims Approval/Denial
7. Crawford County Claims Process Revisited/Re-Established
8. Public Comments
9. Adjourn

The members of the Crawford County Board met in **special session** Thursday, October 3, 2013  
Chairman Gareld Bilyew called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was given by all, followed by a moment of silence and prayer by Don Richart.

Upon roll call Terry McCoy, Don Richart, Allen Price, Toni Earleywine, Gareld Bilyew, David Fulling, Robin Guyer, Shirley Treadway and Donnie Lachenmayr were present. Steve Rich was absent.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman read a note from Steve Rich who was unable to be present but sent his support for the County Board Members. (Note p. )

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman opened with comments stating the purpose of the meeting which is to explain the County Boards' reason to not approve payment of claims pertaining to the purchase of computer equipment by the County Clerk through a bid process and to re-establish the Claims process that had been established for years.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman also addressed the local media and encouraged to report this "Special Meeting" accurately.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman also noted that the County Board felt strongly about the need for this meeting they all agreed to attend at no cost to the taxpayers.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman stated the position of the Board on not approving the claims was the fact they believed the bid process was flawed. It is the opinion of the County Board that accepting the highest bid over 2 lower bids was not in the best interest of the taxpayers. Therefore the Board could not approve the payment of the claims, as they would be putting their approval on the acceptance of the highest bid. He stated the Board was also concerned as to why and how the highest bid was lowered without the bid process being reopened or why the 2 lower bidders were not provided the opportunity to adjust their bids as well, a process the Board once again believed was flawed and not in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman presented a County Organizational Chart. Emphasis was made on who is at the top of the chart, the Taxpayers, and that all Elected Officials are on the same level, under taxpayers.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman explained the process which bills are handled through claims. A County Officer or Department Head receives an invoice, submits a claim to the County Clerk's office for the accounts payable clerk to process and to submit to the Claims Committee (comprised of 3 members of the County Board) for approval. The Claims Committee then reviews all claims by verifying proper signatures and taken from proper accounts. They then make a recommendation to approve or deny payment to the County Board. He stated that the State's Attorney notified him that the County Board does not have the authority to deny payment for expenses the officers incur (50 ILCS 505 Local Government Prompt Payment Act). However the County Board can provide disapproval of the expense incurred by denying payment of the claim; which does not stop payment of the claim, just reflects County Boards' disapproval of the expense.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman explained under state law the county board has no real authority over elected offices except when approving their annual budgets.

Public comments were made by several citizens in attendance.

Allen Price -County Board Member explained the Claims Committee duties and stated that the committee is acting in the best interest of the taxpayers of Crawford County. Committee works diligently to look at every claim to assure they are properly processed.

Patty Lycan-County Clerk stated that the equipment was paid for with money from her office's automation funds which consist of her office's share of fees it collects not tax money. Patty stated claims were submitted to correct the funds from previously paid claims. Patty also stated that it is her responsibility to do what is in the best interest of the County Clerk's office.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman stated that the County Clerk was correct in that the monies used to purchase the computer systems did come from the Automation Account.

Gareld Bilyew-County Board Chairman also stated that one of the uses of the County Clerk's Automation Fund is for the purchasing of this type of equipment. It is also true this is not tax monies, but money that comes from the citizens of Crawford County and others through fees.

Robin Guyer made a motion to adjourn. Don Lachenmayr seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with an "aye" vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

*Patricia "Patty" Lycan*

PATRICIA "PATTY" LYCAN  
Clerk of the Crawford County Board

**COUNTY BOARD APPROVED NOVEMBER 14, 2013**