

**Wednesday, January 6, 2020**  
**Douglas County Board approves 2021 budget, appropriations, and levies**

**By Kendra Hennis**  
 Douglas County Board members met for their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 16 at 9 a.m. All board members were present, with Board Member Ed Luth joining for his first meeting following his election win. The board approved a number of resolutions in the meeting, including resolution 20-R-40, the annual budget, appropriations, and tax levies for 2021. With this, the County Board Finance Committee, Chairman Don Munson, and other appointed officials compiled a list of expenditures for fiscal year 2021. These expenditures specific amounts for the individual annual Tax Levies include: County Tax Levy - 1,157,000; Tort Immunity Tax Levy - 1,080,000; County Highway Tax Levy - 429,000;

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2020					
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEES FY 21-22					
General Board Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM in the Board Room					
A	B	C	D	E	F
COMMITTEE	CHAIRMAN	MEMBER	MEMBER	LOCATION	MEETS
Animal Control	Appleby	Hettinger	Munson	Board Room	2nd Tuesday 1:30 pm
Budget and Finance/Solid Waste	Munson	Hein	Morris	Board Room	Friday before Board Meet. 9 AM
Building and Grounds	Hettinger	Morris	Mikeworth	Board Room	1st Wednesday 9:00 AM Bd Rm
County Public Health/TB.	Appleby	Munson (back up)		Public Health Bldg.	3rd Monday 5:30 pm Health Dpt.
Insurance/Bond	Hettinger	Luth	Morris	Board Room	quarterly as posted or as needed
Law and Order	Hettinger	Luth	Morris	Jail	2nd Monday 9:00 AM
Liquor	Hein	Appleby	Mikeworth	Board Room	As needed
911	Mikeworth	Hettinger (back up)		Jail	3rd Monday alt. months 8:30 AM
Personnel/Legal/Management/CTV	Mikeworth	Hein	Munson	Board Room	1st Tuesday 9:00 AM
Plat and Planning	Hettinger	Hein	Mikeworth	S of A's Office	1st Friday 9:00 AM
Regional Office of Education	Appleby				Quarterly 1st Mon. 6:00 pm
Road and Bridge	Munson	Hein	Luth	Engineer's Office	2nd Wednesday 9:00 AM
Coroner	Appleby	Hein	Luth	Board Room	2nd Wednesday 10:30 AM
EMS	Munson	Hein	Luth	Board Room	2nd Monday 10:30 AM
Dial-a Ride	Mikeworth	Hein			4th Wednesday, bi-monthly
Work Force Area LWIA 17	Mikeworth	Munson			As Called
ECIL Economic Development	Mikeworth				As Called

Board of Health Tax Levy - 429,000; Social Security Tax Levy - 300,000; County Aid to Township Bridges Tax Levy - 215,000; Federal Aid Matching Tax Levy - 215,000; County Retirement Tax Levy - 0; Workmen's Compensation Insurance Tax Levy - 100,000; Extension Education Program Tax Levy - 60,000; Veteran's Assistance Tax Levy - 0; Unemployment Compensation Insurance Tax Levy - 0; Tuberculosis Tax Levy - 9,000. The resolution states that "the monies received by the County Treasurer from Taxes, and other revenues, for the use of Douglas County within Fiscal Year beginning December 1, 200, the following sums of money as set forth herein, and be the same hereby appropriated

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**Douglas County Farm Bureau President's December agriculture update**

**By Larry W. Dallas**  
 Relatively dry weather has continued into late December and fieldwork continued until rain on December 12. We got our last 80 acres of lime spread and those corn stalks chiseled. We put the chisel plows away and our big tractor goes to the implement dealer for some maintenance work. Many dealers have preventative maintenance programs that feature cheaper parts and labor in the winter. Their mechanics stay busy and we get our tractors or combines looked at by a professional. There was still some nitrogen and dry fertilizer going on too. The temptation to keep working is strong, especially after recent falls when we were lucky just to finish harvest. Every year on December 12, I remember the 2009 harvest. The twelfth was when we finally finished

harvest in that year of mud and wet corn. We got no fall work done and spring was a struggle as we tried to catch up. We bought a second disk to speed the task of closing the ruts we made in the fall. At least from a fieldwork standpoint, we are well situated for 2021. Our drainage tile projects were finished just ahead of the rain. The ground was ideal for that installation. We could drive anywhere we wanted in the field without worrying about mud. As we mentioned last month, there is little water running in the existing tile. The soil profile is very dry going into winter. The US drought monitor shows a large part of the country west of the Mississippi as severely dry and a tongue of drought into Central Illinois. Precipitation this winter will be important for our 2021 crop prospects.

Both drainage projects we did this year had large main tiles we could hook onto. One was in a tile district that levies taxes to maintain that outlet. I researched the other main this summer. There was a tile district started in 1908 in this drainage area. The main itself runs over a mile and a half into the Kaskaskia River. Evidently, the tile mains were installed and the district went dormant after that because it no longer levies taxes. Most of the tile is in good shape considering it is 100 years old. Almost always the old mains are undersized. A hundred years ago, only a few drain tile into the worst ponds were installed. We put a tile every 50 to 100 feet across a whole field, greatly increasing the volume of water in wet periods. We are fortunate the mains are in place. We are

looking at another drainage project that has no apparent outlet without a new tile across a neighbor for about half a mile. That is both expensive and complicated to pull off. Getting the next owner to let you go across them isn't always a given. The last 24-inch tile we installed, a common size for a main, was a dollar an inch to put in the ground. The coronavirus is in the news constantly and agriculture is playing a role in the program to distribute the vaccines. These are shipped in dry ice to keep them, in some cases, very cold. Dry ice is solid carbon dioxide and that is a by-product of the ethanol industry. The fermentation of corn for ethanol produces carbon dioxide. That is captured and used to carbonate beverages and for other industrial uses. Now it is being used in the drive to make us

immune to COVID-19. The ethanol industry has been hammered by the coronavirus shutdowns. With fewer miles being driven, there is less need for ethanol to be mixed into gasoline. Higher corn prices are cutting into profit margins as well. There has been consolidation in the ethanol industry and some plants are shuttered, perhaps to be permanently shut down. One of the farm magazines had an article headed "meeting season goes virtual". Winter is usually a time of many meetings and farm shows. The Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting is ordinarily four days of resolutions sessions, talks, and presentations. This year it was boiled down into about six hours of online activities, over three days. Originally it was planned that delegates from each of the 18 Farm Bu-

reau districts would gather in central points so at least the district could have in person discussion. Ultimately most delegates participated from home if they had a good internet connection. I was where so many farm meetings occur, the kitchen table. The meeting went remarkably well. The electronic capabilities we have made something like a virtual meeting possible. The staff at Farm Bureau made it work and even set up a method to vote for district director in the even-numbered districts. One of Illinois Farm Bureau's priorities is to expand affordable broadband over the state. I have reasonably good internet but many areas do not. The need for virtual schools has highlighted these shortcomings. Some of the rural electric cooperatives

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**First wave distribution of COVID-19 vaccines underway in Douglas county**

Vaccines are time-tested, life-saving resources that have been keeping disease and illness at bay for more than 200 years. Gloucestershire physician Dr. Edward Jenner is largely credited with having the first such research and findings documented and published by a credible scientific body (The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge—the oldest national scientific institution in the world). Consider these passages from The History of Vaccines—An Educational Resource By The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. "Evidence exists that the Chinese employed smallpox vaccination (or variolation, as such use of smallpox material was called) as early as 1000 CE. It was practiced in Africa and Turkey as well, before it spread to Europe and the Americas. "Edward Jenner's innovations, begun with his successful 1796 use of cowpox material to create immunity to smallpox, quickly made the practice widespread. His

method underwent medical and technological changes over the next 200 years, and eventually resulted in the eradication of smallpox. "Louis Pasteur's 1885 rabies vaccine was the next to make an impact on human disease. And then, at the dawn of bacteriology, developments rapidly followed. Antitoxins and vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, anthrax, cholera, plague, typhoid, tuberculosis, and more were developed through the 1930's. "The middle of the 20th century was an active time for vaccine research and development. Methods for growing viruses in the laboratory led to rapid discoveries and innovations, including the creation of vaccines for polio. Researchers targeted other common childhood diseases such as measles, mumps, and rubella, and vaccines for these diseases reduced the disease burden greatly. So here we are, poised once again on the precipice of medical history, as two COVID-19 vaccines



(Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) are currently being distributed worldwide and several more are waiting in the wings for their anticipated authorization. Because there will, at first, be a limited supply of vaccine, initial immunizations will be focused on specific groups of people. At this time that means front-line healthcare workers, first responders, and residents and staff of long-term care facilities. However, the general public should be able to get vaccinated in a matter of months. When that time comes, will you be rolling up your sleeve? And if not, why not? Listed below are some common concerns related to the vaccine, and science-based responses. *I can't afford to get the vaccine.* \*At this time, there is no cost to you to receive the vaccine. While insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid will be billed, anything not reimbursed will be covered by the De-

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