Madison County Approves Broad Agenda but Tables Liquor Ordinance

by Chris Rhodes, Reporter
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EDWARDSVILLE — The Madison County Board approved its full agenda except that it tabled an ordinance amending Section 70.038 of the Madison County Code of Ordinances to establish minimum sizes for alcoholic liquor containers sold at retail for off-premises consumption Wednesday night.

Several items addressed growth and development throughout the county, with multiple special-use permits and zoning variances receiving approval.

Zoning and Development

The Building and Zoning Committee brought forward several requests involving residential properties and business development.

Among the approved requests was a special-use permit for Gerardo Pacheco to continue placing a mobile home at 3109 Fairmont Ave. in Collinsville for occupancy by Pacheco and his family. The permit will allow the arrangement for a period not exceeding five years.

The board also approved a special-use permit for a proposed convenience store at 3125 Fairmont Ave. in Collinsville. The application was submitted by Gurdip Kaur and Sukwinder Singh on behalf of 5404 Collinsville Road LLC.

Other business-related approvals included a special-use permit for an eating and drinking establishment at 7243 Saint James Drive in Edwardsville, submitted by Eric Mendenhall on behalf of Riveco LLC.

Two additional business approvals involved properties in Cottage Hills. Bhavin Patel, representing 3S Investment LLC, received approval for a convenience store at 308A W. Macarthur Drive and an eating and drinking establishment at 308 W. Macarthur Drive.

The board also approved several residential zoning requests.

These included a variance allowing Rhonda Bartow to construct an addition to her home at 219 Woodland Drive in Edwardsville with a 25-foot rear setback instead of the required 30 feet.

Shawn and Kayla Hartmann received approval for variances involving a proposed private lake at 8106 Maple Grove Road in Troy. The request allows the lake to be located closer to neighboring homes than the required 250-foot setback.

Jerold and Kathryn Amsbury also received approval for a private recreational area consisting of dirt tracks for personal recreational vehicles at 8237 State Route 143 in Edwardsville.

Another approved request involved Jeffrey and Brandy Parmeley, who sought permission to create two parcels measuring 1.89 acres and 1.84 acres, respectively, instead of the required minimum of two acres.

The board also approved resolutions authorizing the demolition of unsafe buildings and structures at three locations:

- 1113 N. Stanley Road in Cottage Hills.
- 5541 Old Alton Road in Granite City.
- 8617 Fairway Boulevard in Collinsville.

Long Lake Outfall Project and County Improvements

The board approved amendments to two construction contracts for the Long Lake Outfall Project through Madison County Building and Zoning.

Both contracts were awarded to Gelly Excavating & Construction.

The Phase I contract amendment totals $1,842,898.91, while the Phase II amendment totals $290,066.46.

The approvals will allow the county to move forward with the amended construction contracts for the project.

County Facilities, Technology and Services

Several major purchases and service contracts were also approved.

The county approved $574,000 for architectural and engineering services for the Madison County Coroner's Office and Morgue. The contract was awarded to AAIC Inc.

Another significant approval was a five-year janitorial services contract for designated county facilities. CR Systems was awarded the contract for $1,630,652.51.

The Information Technology Department also received approval for a $55,862.48 Airlock Digital subscription through Insight Public Sector Inc.

Additionally, the board approved an amended $44,877 renewal purchase for Exagrid through Secure Data Technologies Inc.

The county also authorized Opterra Energy Services to serve as a qualified provider for a no-cost opportunity assessment and project development services under the Local Government Energy Conservation Act.

2027 Budget, Taxes and County Funding

Financial matters were another major part of the meeting.

The Finance and Government Operations Committee brought forward the FY 2027 budget summary, the FY 2027 real estate tax levy ordinance and the FY 2027 replacement tax allocation, all of which received approval.

The board also approved various claims and transfers, along with funding appropriations and other financial matters.

Several grant-related appropriations were approved, including $399,812 for the FY 2026 SAMHSA Reclaiming Hope Project Grant and $312,466 for the FY 2027 Probation Adult Redeploy Grant.

The board also approved $2,135,495 for excess workers' compensation, excess liability, commercial property and excess earthquake insurance coverage through Dimond Bros. Insurance and Cincinnati Insurance Co. The coverage term runs from Dec. 1, 2026, through Nov. 30, 2027.

Two workers' compensation settlements were also approved, totaling $58,714.38.

Mental Health and Recovery Services

The Madison County Mental Health Board approved several funding requests supporting recovery services, treatment programs, and family assistance.

Among the approved allocations were:

- **$77,370** to Alton Memorial Hospital for a recovery support specialist in its Childbirth Center.
- **$166,000** to Chestnut Health Systems for Medication-Assisted Recovery treatment services programming.
- **$62,330** to Amare NFP for a recovery support specialist.

- **$29,300** to Safe Surroundings & Refuge for a parent educator and therapist.

- **$25,000** to Family Hospice of Belleville Area, also known as Heartlinks Grief Center, for its Substance Use Loss Support Program.

- **$36,000** to Jewell Psychological Services to evaluate services provided through the Opioid Settlement Program.

The Safe Surroundings & Refuge funding will cover the period from Dec. 1, 2026, through Nov. 30, 2027.

The board also approved the reallocation of previously approved pet population grants and an amended vaccine purchase agreement with FFF Enterprises for an amount not to exceed $45,000.

Public Safety and Other County Business

Public safety and county operations also received attention during the meeting.

The board tabled an ordinance amending Section 70.038 of the Madison County Code of Ordinances to establish minimum sizes for alcoholic liquor containers sold at retail for off-premises consumption.

An amendment to the county's Riverbend Enterprise Zone ordinance was also approved. The change makes a technical correction, modifies incentives and amends the territory covered by the enterprise zone.

The county additionally approved an Illinois State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant FY 2026 budget for the Madison County Employment and Training Department.

Other approvals included renewing the Prosecutor by Karpel case management system for the Madison County State's Attorney's Office at a cost of $73,925.

The board also approved a contract with The Crowley Group for Phase II imaging and digitization services for the Madison County Circuit Clerk, at an amount not to exceed $585,000.

Transportation and County Appointments

Transportation-related business included approval of maintenance work under the Illinois Highway Code, an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for participation in a Bridge Bundling Program, and final payment for South Moreland Road (CH19) patching under Section 25-00138-02-GM.

The board also approved appointments to county boards.

James Hengehold was appointed to the Madison County Emergency Telephone System Board for the remainder of a four-year term expiring June 30, 2027, replacing Joe Petrovich, who resigned.

William Cunningham was appointed to the Wood River Drainage and Levee District for the remainder of a three-year term expiring Sept. 4, 2028. He replaces Steve Kochan, who passed away.

The board also approved the 2027 holiday calendar and established meeting schedules for its various committees for the upcoming year.