Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Thursday, June 4, 2020
County Board Room – Perry County Government Building

A regular meeting of the Perry County Board of Commissioners was convened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2020 in the County Board Room at the Perry County Government Building in the City of Pinckneyville.

OPENING

Chairman Dallas Bigham called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited by those in attendance.

County Clerk Beth Lipe called the roll. The following members answered the call of the roll: Commissioner Susan Hepp, Commissioner Bobby Kelly and Chairman Dallas Bigham were present.

The following department heads were also present: State's Attorney David Searby and Assessor Becky Winter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Bigham - Before we approve the agenda, does anyone want to be added to Public Comments? Please add State's Attorney David Searby. Chairman Bigham then called for approval of the meeting agenda.

Commissioner Kelly moved the agenda for the meeting be approved. Commissioner Hepp seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Bigham asked for the approval of the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of the May 21, 2020 regular meeting. Chairman Bigham called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Hepp moved the minutes of the May 21, 2020 regular meeting be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT OF FEE SCHEDULE FOR LIQUOR LICENSE HOLDERS FOR THE YEAR 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

Chairman Bigham – As I was talking to Beth earlier today and David, our fees, we have 3 liquor licenses in the County. The W Restaurant, Double Eagle or Red Hawk Golf Course and Fuzz Jay & Zach's. It's $1,000.00 a year for the liquor license. There's been some talk about helping those guys out with this pandemic and COVID.

Commissioner Kelly – I mentioned that at the last meeting. Jon Boss at The W, I go over there and get curbside, he asked if it was due right on the day cause he heard, I guess people he talked to said that some are thinking about moving it to a different day, some are forgiving some months, some are cutting it back. I said I don't know, I'll have to talk to the other Commissioners.

Chairman Bigham – Do you want to speak on this Dave?

State's Attorney Searby – Yes sure, I worked with Beth on this and I've been in contact with the Board as well. State of Illinois passed a law, new legislation was signed last week by the Governor that modified the payment schedule for the State Liquor Licenses, which the local ones have to have two, a State and County one, so they made those modifications allowing them. What we did, to take into account, was to phase in, Williamson County did something very similar to this, they did a phase in, instead of saying the whole amount has to be paid up front, they were allowing an allotment to be

phased in of the overall fee. So, the fee will be paid, it will just be phased in as opposed to being done like that and the Ordinance is drafted that basically allows the Board to make that determination based on this. And, that's what allows it to be phased in.

Commissioner Kelly – Didn't Williamson County, Ron said that Jim said something about having an August 1st payment?

State's Attorney Searby – I think there's was a late payment but the full amount.

Commissioner Kelly – Yes, full amount but not til August.

State's Attorney – Our is to be determined but to be phased in. So, it still gives them the opportunity to go ahead and be phased in so basically, it's a basic licensing issue that we did and the Ordinance just basically allows it to be done like that. So that we could give them a little bit of relief on the short term.

Commissioner Kelly – Right.

County Clerk Lipe – I have been in contact with all 3 this week and they all 3 have their State Licenses already in place and they just asked if we could consider a payment plan and that they would be very grateful if we would do that.

Commissioner Kelly – I know they've been trying to get ahold of me & I told them to get ahold of you.

County Clerk Lipe – I've been in contact with all 3.

Commissioner Kelly – I mean you can talk to Dallas & Susan so…

Chairman Bigham – I mean, maybe one idea we can throw out there is maybe start the first payment August 1st then go August, September, October, November 1st?

County Clerk Lipe – Either that or if you do, if you start in July, then we will have everything paid this fiscal year. If you want to start July 1st, that gives them a few weeks this month. Do you want to do $250.00 per month for 4 months?

Chairman Bigham – Yeah, Susan?

Commissioner Hepp – I think that is fair.

Commissioner Kelly – Yes, that will give them a little time to build cash up as they are re-opening. I agree.

County Clerk Lipe – Then we can have it all processed this budget year.

Chairman Bigham – Do we need to say that in the Ordinance, Dave?

State's Attorney Searby – You guys have the authority to do that.

Chairman Bigham – Okay. So that's what we are going to do then. Do I have a motion for the Ordinance for the amendment of the fee schedule for the Liquor License holders for the year 2020 due to COVID-19?

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Ordinance to amend the fee schedule for the Liquor License holders for the year 2020 due to COVID-19. Commissioner Hepp seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp, Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Bigham. The motion was passed on a vote of 3-0 and the ordinance was adopted.

RESOLUTION – TO SUPPORT THE 'RE-OPENING' OF PERRY COUNTY

Chairman Bigham – Several other Counties around us have been doing that and we talked, Susan, at the last meeting about it being a good idea. David has drawn up a letter that we are going to send up there and I'm going to sign it and I think it just shows that as the Board in Perry County, that we are behind this and does anybody else have anything to say about this?

Commissioner Hepp - Thankfully, I think things are continuing to move in the right direction.

Commissioner Kelly – I agree with you.

Chairman Bigham – I think everybody, the moral in the City of Du Quoin & Pinckneyville is better. It's picked up a little bit, somewhat.

Commissioner Kelly – I think we've done well in our County. People were following guidelines and stuff. Can't say much for other areas.

Chairman Bigham – Lake of the Ozarks…do I have a motion to support the re-opening of Perry County?

Commissioner Hepp moved to approve the Resolution to support the "Re-opening" of Perry County. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp, Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Bigham. The motion was passed on a vote of 3-0 and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSES

Chairman Bigham – We have 3 Liquor Licenses – The W Restaurant & Lounge LLC, Double Eagle Inc. d/b/a Red Hawk Golf Club and Fuzz Jay & Zach's Aces & Eights Inc. Do I have a motion to approve these Liquor Licenses?

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Liquor Licenses as read. Commissioner Hepp seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp, Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Bigham. The motion was passed on a vote of 3-0 and the resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bigham – This moves us to Public Comments, Dave?

State's Attorney Searby – Yes, this is just, we don't have a crowd here but the statement I'd like to put out there is, with the COVID-19, everyone has been doing their utmost best with their jobs, I mean, business, government, everything and I just want to point out a couple of people that have helped keep the County pretty good. Kim Farthing has been keeping on top of the Courthouse and this building, keeping everything clean, making sure everything is kept in tip top shape with sanitizing, Kim's done a great job at the Courthouse and I just want to thank her and I don't know if the public is aware but Barb Stevenson and staff at the Health Department since this has started, I was in on meetings with them every day, 2 to 3 times a day since this started. Barb and them have done a tremendous job keeping up with the on-going issues, keeping up on everything to coordinate with the hospitals, coordinating with Chuck Genesio, keeping the Board updated. Barb and them have done a great job and they are still going 24/7 but they have done just a great job. I think it's worth saying that they've all done a great job keeping everybody safe in the County and helping make our jobs easier when I don't have to worry about wiping off the handles and doorknobs everyday cause Kim's on top of it. Barb and them are doing a great job too.

Chairman Bigham – One thing before we go, let's touch on opening up the Government Building here. Beth, Becky how's the plexiglass and stuff?

County Clerk Lipe – Everything is in place.

Assessor Winter – Plexiglass is all in place in our offices.

County Clerk Lipe – Everything is ready to go. We did do the doorbell, they ring the bell & somebody goes down, we take turns. If somebody does need to come in, we've been allowing them in, one at a time, to make sure we don't have too many people in here. Becky doesn't' have a very large area for the public and neither do I so we are just trying to make sure we don't have too many people in one spot come in. We've still been doing our marriage licenses after 4:00, just for that fact that Becky's in here & we don't want anything happening to Becky so I feel that's a little bit safer. Probably in the next couple of weeks we will start letting them come during the day but we are still going to ask them to make an appointment.

Chairman Bigham – I think when I talked to Tory today, she said there's a lot of stuff people can now do online with the Clerk's office.

County Clerk Lipe – There is a lot of stuff they can do online. We do have 2 title searchers that are needing to come in because they need to go through the books. Up to this point, I've been staying and they've been coming in at 4:00 and I stay until they get finished in the evening. These two, they do not want to come in the evening so in the next week or so, we are going to let them come during the day but not the same day so we can adhere to the social distancing guidelines.

Chairman Bigham – I know we've talked a lot about how we are going to handle all this and I think we've done a good job preparing. How's the Courthouse doing uptown, Dave?

State's Attorney Searby – We are pretty much functioning the way we always have. The Circuit Clerk's office now has their plexiglass at their two cashier areas and my half door is still shut but we aren't having much traffic right now because keeping that hallway closed for the time being.

County Clerk Lipe – I have been in contact with some of the other Counties to see how they are handling the start of re-opening and most of the other Counties have a security person at their door so they keep track of the name and number of those entering the building in case anything would happen, we plan on doing the same thing when we go down to answer the door.

Chairman Bigham – Is there anything, Becky, you'd like to see in the next couple of weeks?

Assessor Winter – I think myself and employees feel safe with the plexiglass. People know the rules and will abide by them. We are ready to get back to business as usual.

Chairman Bigham – I'm not sure what other steps we need to take…I haven't seen anything on Phase 4.

State's Attorney Searby – We are not to Phase 4 yet, it may be coming in limited scope in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Kelly – When is Board of Review starting?

Assessor Winter – We are meeting Monday to review our appeals, still waiting on the State for our tentative multiplier. Hopefully it will be in about the same time we wrap up Board of Review.

Commissioner Hepp – Have they said anything about delays?

Assessor Winter – The State? No, I'm anticipating getting the tentative in the next day or two and then they have to schedule their public hearing, which I haven't heard how the State is going to handle that. Up at the State offices they are working alternating days, I think they may be rotating staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Board members examined claims presented for payment.

Commissioner Hepp moved to approve the payment of bills when money becomes available and if their budget lines allow it and they are not over budget. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp, Commissioner Kelly and Chairman Bigham. The motion was approved on a vote of 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT OF COUNTY BOARD MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman said he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Kelly moved the Board adjourn and convene the next regular meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Hepp seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted:

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BETH LIPE, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
County of Perry, State of Illinois
Approved: June 18, 2020