Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Thursday, July 9, 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, July 9, 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, Treasurer Mary Jane Craft, Zoning Officer Becky Tracy and County Engineer Brian Otten.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Bigham - Before we approve the agenda, does anyone want to be added to Public Comments?

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 June 18, 2020 regular meeting. Chairman Bigham called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Hepp moved the minutes of the June 18, 2020 regular meeting be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION – SUPPORTING DOWNSTATE SMALL BUSINESS STABILIZATION GRANT

Chairman Bigham – Becky, will you give us the run down on that?

Zoning Officer Tracy – We had the public hearing right before this meeting to support this grant application for Double Eagle, Inc., doing business as Red Hawk Golf Course. I have the resolution here.

Chairman Bigham – Is there any discussion? Do I have a motion on this?

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Resolution to support the Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant. 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.

RESOLUTION – ACCEPT ANNUAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2019

Chairman Bigham – Mary Jane?

Treasurer Craft – Our Audit has been completed & we have the same amount of findings

as they did last year. One of the main ones again, of course, is the days that we have on the books on some of our employees. Other than that, it looks pretty good compared to the way we were last year and the year before.

Chairman Bigham – The last couple years there was a lot of yellow ink in there, a lot less this year?

Treasurer Craft – Yes.

Chairman Bigham – That's good there.

Treasurer Craft – And, one other finding is with our financial software, that there was a certain glitch in it, which we thought was fixed, they found that the glitch wasn't fixed so we are still working on that now and we've got ahold of our financial software company and they are working on it too, on the general ledger. But everything else seems to look pretty good.

Chairman Bigham - Do I have a motion on that please?

Commissioner Hepp moved to accept the Annual Audit. 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 SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Chairman Bigham – We have 2 Special Use Permits. SUP-20-01, Samuel C. Kuhnert and SUP-20-02, Tom McIntyre. Becky?

Zoning Officer Tracy – The Zoning Board met yesterday to review these Special Use Permit Applications. Mr. Kuhnert is placing a used 1344 square foot mobile home at 8315 State Route 154. Since it is used, it is a little different, they approved it for 3 years. That doesn't mean he will have to remove it in 3 years but we will go back and make sure everything is in line with our ordinance as far as it's not falling in, that it still has skirting or some sort of concrete block foundation. There are just some things we look at when these special use permits expire then we just renew them if everything is okay. And, Mr. McIntyre is placing a new mobile home, 1056 square foot at 6709 Foxglove Road, Coulterville and our Zoning Board recommends a 10 year special use permit because it is new.

Chairman Bigham – Thank you Becky. Do I have a motion to approve please?

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Special Use Permits. 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.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE UPDATED DECOMMISSIONING PLAN OF PRAIRIE STATE SOLAR LLC

Chairman Bigham – Becky?

Zoning Officer Tracy – With the Special Use Permit for the Solar Farm, the Prairie State Solar Farm that is going in in Swanwick, they have to provide us with a decommissioning plan for us to approve prior to construction. They've provided us with one that the Zoning Board reviewed and okay'd but then they had to change it a little bit because there was a landowner that wanted something a little different on his ground with the decommissioning. So, they changed that and I need to approve that, I wanted to just let you guys know. You don't have to sign anything but Beth does, so I just wanted that to be on the agenda in case anybody had any questions. The Zoning Board has been, they've taken the lead in that, I know there have been people here a couple of times to talk about it but I just wanted to make sure that you guys didn't have any questions with regard to what is going on up there. Nothing is going on up there just yet. I have heard that construction may start in August. I know we've had some people wonder if it's ever going to come but it is coming.

Chairman Bigham – If we hadn't had this coronavirus happen, we'd probably already had a ground breaking.

Zoning Officer Tracy - They actually have gotten a 911 address a week or so ago for where the new substation is going in but Doug Clark also recommended they get a 911 address for each array that might be in a different area just in case somebody would get hurt out there, our ambulance service would know where to find them. Every piece of

property does not have an address, we don't address every farm field.

Chairman Bigham – Thank you Becky. Can I have a motion on that please?

Commissioner Hepp moved to approve the updated decommissioning plan of Prairie State Solar LLC. 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 RAFFLE LICENSES

Chairman Bigham – We have 3 Raffle License Applications. They are a Fundraiser for Brynlee Brewer, 2020-RL-07, Swanwick Cemetery Association, 2020-RL-08 and the American Thresherman Association, 2020-RL-09.

County Clerk Lipe – All three (3) applications have been completed and fees have been paid.

Chairman Bigham - Do I have a motion to approve these Raffle Licenses?

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Raffle Licenses. 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 Licenses were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bigham – This moves us to Public Comments, Josh Giacomo is here with the American Thresherman's Association. Josh?

Josh Giacomo – Josh provided an update for holding the American Thresherman's show in August. Several things have happened in the past few weeks including new outbreaks and even though they would be ready for the show, they feel that in the best interest of all involved, all the vendors and all the spectators, that they are seriously considering cancelling the show for this year. The liability issue is huge and that is something that they have to look at when making this decision.

Chairman Bigham – Thanked Josh for coming in and wished him and the other members luck in their decision. Now we have a presentation by Konicka Minolta Business Solutions.

Konicka Minolta Business Solutions – They made a presentation regarding copiers, printers, computers and IT support. They are the direct manufacturer with special pricing and service contracts. They have a broad array of products. They have an office located in Marion, IL. They left their contact information for future reference.

Chairman Bigham – Thanked them for their presentation. Are there any other comments from the Public?

Pete Spitler – Usually you guys have passed a tax anticipation resolution by this time each year and I noticed you haven't had one this year and I was curious how the financial standpoint is?

Commissioner Hepp – Last budget with bills paid we were at 53% of expenses, everybody is holding tight with their budget, everybody managing it, I think they know, even with some unexpected COVID expenses that we have had to deal with, everybody has been diligent and I think they know that…

Chairman Bigham – A big thanks to all the officeholders.

Commissioner Hepp – Yes, we are all working together.

Pete Spitler – This is basically your opportunity to brag a little bit cause obviously your financial decisions are working.

Commissioner Hepp – And I attribute the fact that I was the main source of creating this budget this year which we kept within the Bellwether recommendations from the previous year with the budget cuts and layoffs we have stuck to the plan. Now we're not out of the waters yet by any means but in continuing to know that somebody is watching and that I'm here paying attention to every bill and every dollar that's being spent. I foresee us making it the rest of this fiscal year without taking out any tax anticipation warrants.

Chairman Bigham – When was the last time the County didn't have to take any out?

Treasurer Craft – Not since I've been here.

Commissioner Kelly – There was one time in there but that was just one year.

Commissioner Hepp – I think it was when I was, I know when I was working for Bill Taylor, I know we did go a year without it. I know we did. But again, I think it takes diligence.

Pete Spitler – It sounds like it's a positive step.

Commissioner Hepp – Yes, it is.

Commissioner Kelly – Susan has done a great job, she's been nit picking every bill that's been handed over to us.

Commissioner Hepp – Sometimes it's not even that they were going to overspend, it's sometimes an education as far as what expenses needed to go where as well.

Chairman Bigham – She's done an unbelievable job.

County Clerk Lipe – Can I throw one thing about my office real quick? Vote by mail applications will be in the mail postmarked by July 31st and they will go to anyone who voted in the General Election of 2018, the Consolidated Election of 2019 and the Primary Election of 2020. We are not sending to every registered voter due to our financial situation. We've opted to just do what the Governor has signed on the bill and we are waiting to see what happens next.

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, July 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Hepp seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Submitted:

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BETH LIPE, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
County of Perry, State of Illinois
Approved: July 23, 2020