Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Thursday, August 6, 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, August 6, 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 and Chairman Dallas Bigham were present. Commissioner Bobby Kelly was absent.

The following department heads were also present: State's Attorney David Searby, Treasurer Mary Jane Craft, Sheriff Steve Bareis and EMA Doug Clark.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Bigham - Before we approve the agenda, does anyone want to be added to Public Comments? I think Chuck Genesio will be calling in during Public Comments.

Commissioner Hepp moved the agenda for the meeting be approved. Chairman Bigham 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 July 23, 2020 regular meeting. Chairman Bigham called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Hepp moved the minutes of the July 23, 2020 regular meeting be approved. Chairman Bigham seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE COUNTY CONVEYANCE 41-009-03 (G. MORGAN)

County Clerk Lipe reported that G. Morgan has purchased 41-009-03, a mobile home located at 20 N. Locust Street, Tamaroa through public auction sale for the total sum of $900.00. The County of Perry, as Trustee assigns the Certificate of Purchase to G. Morgan.

Chairman Bigham asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Hepp moved to approve the County Conveyance 41-009-03 (G. Morgan). Chairman Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp and Chairman Bigham. The motion was passed on a vote of 3-0-1 and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT THROUGH IBID ONLINE AUCTION WITH STATE OF ILLINOIS

Chairman Bigham – Doug do you want to speak on that?

EMA Clark – I just need the description of the lawn mower with serial number. We need a resolution to be able to sell it.

Chairman Bigham – How do we determine a price on that?

EMA Clark – We just open it with a bid. I'll have to dig around and see what others have

started bids for mowers. They post it on their site and it remains for so many days.

Chairman Bigham – Dave, do you think we need to set a minimum bid on something like that there. I mean, it's just an old used mower.

State's Attorney Searby - I believe Doug's going to look at comparibles and then start with that.

EMA Clark – It's usually set for 10-14 days. We just try to be transparent when we do the description so people know what they are buying.

Chairman Bigham asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Hepp moved to approve the Sale of Surplus Equipment through IBID online auction with the State of Illinois. Chairman Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp and Chairman Bigham. The motion was passed on a vote of 3-0-1 and the resolution was adopted.

DISCUSSION

Chairman Bigham – That moves us to discuss selling the building on Mulberry Street behind the Perry County Jail. It's always been known to me as the white house, that's what everyone refers it to.

Sheriff Bareis – About 15-16 years ago the County got that property for storage as well as office space. It is being used for storing evidence and the garage is full of old files. We have recently purged some records. We use it for our Drug Task Force meetings, meeting with other departments, use it for extra storage for uniforms. The building is used on a daily basis, I use it sometimes for grant writing when it's so busy at the jail. We can use it to quarantine employees if they contract COVID and don't want to spread it at home to their families.

Chairman Bigham – So you are saying if one of your employees get it, they can stay there for 14 days?

Sheriff Bareis – Actually, we've talked to Genesio and had to make some changes to it…

Chairman Bigham – So is that open to any County employee?

Sheriff Bareis – Potentially yes, but since we have sensitive items over there, we would have to move some stuff around and lock it down. That would be our biggest concern. We have disks and files that are heat sensitive that have to remain in a controlled environment. For example, all the Sydney Stephens stuff has to be kept in an air conditioned environment and we have thousands and thousands of documents that we will have to keep indefinitely regarding that homicide. Whether or not you guys decide to sell it, you just have to realize that everything that is in there has to go somewhere and I know at one time, I was given some advice from Lt. Plumlee that Keith had initially had hoped to put in a pole barn and have part of it with air-conditioned storage and the other part of it for other storage. With the federal money that we were going to use, we couldn't build it because we couldn't prove that it had never been an Indian burial ground. That's why it's been maintained as a house. Initially the plan was to level it and put in a Morton type building with some secure areas in it. Due to the ties of standards of Federal money, that never happened cause we couldn't find a study to prove that it wasn't a burial ground. But that's kind of the utilization of it. Obviously, I know that Bellwether suggested selling it as well as the property behind this building and if you choose to do that, the County Board is going to have to realize that we're going to have to take that stuff somewhere and we're going to have to provide the elements, the security as well as climate control to house those items.

Chairman Bigham – I think, Mary Jane, we've got all this office space back here, down here.

Sheriff Bareis – I don't think there's enough square footage here.

Treasurer Craft – One more thing that we need to think about. I know there's been controversy lately about someone staying there but there again, with the COVID thing, then you're making it a living-quarters which our insurance really and truly it's an office building, basically is what it's supposed to be, not where people live there. Because when you have people living there there's a lot more things that could happen to the building, you know, someone falls asleep and it catches fire, if they smoke or if they leave something on.

Sheriff Bareis – That employee is no longer with our agency. He decided to resign.

Treasurer Craft – But with the COVID thing, the COVID thing, for all employees, they

have to really be asked to go home, I know.

Commissioner Hepp – I don't believe that's quite accurate, that's why we're going to call Chuck here soon and the plan was not actually, it was never finalized so the white house was never part of the plan for any quarantine situation.

Sheriff Bareis – All I know is that we did talk to him about it.

Commissioner Hepp – But, the plan, as far as, it was going to be at the Wellness Center. So, I mean, that wasn't even part of the plan. But as far as the Government Building, we have half of a building now, we have, if we end up, as far as secure, it's a secure location, it's a controlled environment and you can even have an office space out here. I don't know how much office space we're talking. There's only 1 room.

Sheriff Bareis – It's not so much with office space, the biggest thing is it's not controlled enough for what we're going to have to control. I will have to put in a door that's lockable, monitored, an alarm system.

Commissioner Hepp - Well these are locked and we do have the camera situation already. So, I know you already have an alarm system, we could possibly potentially move it down here.

Sheriff Bareis – We can look at that, that's fairly certain.

Commissioner Hepp – But, David, if we decide to do that, then what do you have to do as far as the house and the value, it has to be…appraisal?

State's Attorney Searby - We'd have to do all the normal stuff like title work, appraisal…

Commissioner Hepp – Appraisal

State's Attorney Searby – We also have to look at, because that building was actually transferred by the Building Commission to the County. We'd have to double check to make sure that there isn't a title issue with that when the transfer was done, how many years ago was that.

County Clerk Lipe – Like we did with the jail? The old jail?

State's Attorney Searby – Yes, like when we transferred that. It would be the normal procedure like when you would sell real estate. There are things you'd have to look at. I do know there was a concern when they were looking to build a pole barn. So, with title work, you'd probably need it appraised so if you were going to put it up for bid, you'd know where to start.

Treasurer Craft – Question. So who donated it to the County?

State's Attorney Searby – The Building Commission purchased it, like they did with the jail, the current jail. And at some point, they had, everything was done. The Building Commission purchased it with funds that they had, before they dissolved and when they dissolved, they transferred the jail property to the County and they had purchased the property where the house sits on and they transferred it to the County also. Now if there is anything restrictive in those transfer documents, that is something we want to look at as well because the Building Commission may have put something on there that it can only be used for the jail. We will have to look into that further.

Treasurer Craft – So, with it being transferred to the County, usually all liens are dropped so we don't have to worry about any liens, correct?

State's Attorney Searby – I'm sure when the Commission took over there wasn't anything outstanding.

Chairman Bigham – One of the things that concerned me was that I didn't know anyone was living there for a period of time. I had several phone calls on that.

Sheriff Bareis – He wasn't living there, he lived an hour and a half away and instead of working 12 hours and driving an hour and a half and putting him at risk, I allowed him to catch some sleep. He wasn't cooking there, was only sleeping there for the 3 days he was working then he'd drive back home. And then when he was back for his 2 days, he'd sleep 1 night.

Chairman Bigham – I think when that got out I think the general public thought there was somebody living there for a month and a half.

Commissioner Hepp – And when that happens, do we not need to be notifying our insurance agents? I mean, regardless…

Sheriff Bareis – I just didn't think it was an issue so that's my fault. With our present personnel, I slept in my office the other night. I worked 25 hours between Tuesday and Wednesday, because I was the only one to cover the County. That's an issue, I have a cot in my office behind my door, folks, I work numerous 24-hour shifts, I don't have enough personnel.

State's Attorney Searby – One thing to keep in mind and this will apply to any building that we use, per statute, there are several statues that we have to abide by in keeping evidence, some things have to be maintained forever. Evidence has to track along with the case.

Commissioner Hepp – With us having this property out here, as far as storage, then we could possibly look at building something out here.

State's Attorney Searby – One issue is the chain of custody, it has to be very secure. Have to think about how many keys would be out there, you know. I would have a problem with that in keeping evidence secured. Franklin County built a pole barn to keep stuff in it because they had nowhere to put it. So that's something to keep in mind when looking for places for storage.

Commissioner Hepp – I meant here, if we end up building, like Franklin County, just build it on this property.

State's Attorney Searby – That's always one of those things you have to keep in mind whenever you are looking at evidence cause some of those things you just can't say we'll we can get rid of it, some of those things you just can't get rid of. That stuff just builds up with time. I know that Du Quoin has a couple cars they can't get rid of and I think we have a car down here too. So, just something you're looking at evidence issues not just office space & other things like that cause some things you just have to maintain.

Commissioner Hepp – Right, I understand that.

Kevin Kern – Spoke about insurance renewal that will be coming up in December.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bigham – We are now going to call Chuck Genesio with EMA and let him explain further the COVID plan.

EMA Chuck Genesio – Chuck explained the plan for Perry County regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, he explained what the CARES grant is, how to apply, what can or cannot be submitted, who is to do the submitting and when. They will be getting together soon to begin gathering the costs and prepare them for submission.

County Clerk Lipe – Explained the vote by mail, the reimbursements that will be coming and when early voting begins.

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. Chairman Bigham seconded the motion. Chairman Bigham requested a roll call vote. Upon call of the roll, the following members voted aye: Commissioner Hepp and Chairman Bigham. The motion was approved on a vote of 3-0-1.

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 Hepp moved the Board adjourn and convene the next regular meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Chairman Bigham seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Submitted:

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BETH LIPE, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners