Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Thursday, September 3, 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, September 3, 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 head was also present: State's Attorney David Searby, by phone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Bigham - Before we approve the agenda, does anyone want to be added to Public Comments? Bill Gibson would like to be added and Commissioner Kelly also.

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 August 20, 2020 regular meeting. Chairman Bigham called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Hepp moved the minutes of the August 20, 2020 regular meeting be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

ORDINANCE – AMEND ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2020 FOR THE COUNTY UNIT ROAD DISTRICT

County Clerk Lipe stated that the Highway Engineer has to keep the certified rate for Unit Road levy at 0.1650 and the way that it was budgeted, it had dropped that rate to 0.1595 and if that rate drops below the 0.1650 then the Unit Road District will lose their Needy Township monies that they receive each year from the Illinois Department of Transportation. We had to do this same thing last year to keep that rate where it had to be. It did change their levy amounts slightly, but his overall levy went down just a bit. If they lose that Needy Township money, they lose somewhere between $65,000.00 and $70,000.00.

Chairman Bigham asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the amendment of the Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Year 2020 for the County Unit Road District. 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 3-0-0 and the ordinance was adopted.

RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE APPOINTEES OF JUDGES OF ELECTION, AS AGREED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES

County Clerk Lipe reported that the Election Judge lists are completed from both parties, the Chairmen have both signed off. We are a little short-handed on the Republican side

but they are continuing to help us with getting Judges. We can add people to the list if they have served as a Judge in the past. With the bill that was signed by the Governor, we are going from 5 judges per precinct down to 3, as we do with the Primary elections. This time around we need 2 Republican and 1 Democrat Judge in each precinct. We also have alternate lists from each party that will help us, if needed. Some of our older judges have waived this time around with the pandemic but we believe that we will have enough to fill all the positions. The State Board of Elections changes the recommendations almost daily so we are still trying to adjust to all the changes. All polling places will be open, times will stay the same, 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Chairman Bigham asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Kelly moved to approve the Appointees of Judges of Election. 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 3-0-0 and the resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE RAFFLE LICENSE FOR PINCKNEYVILLE SHOOTING SPORTS

County Clerk Lipe reported that the raffle license for the Pinckneyville Shooting Sports has been completed and the fee paid.

Chairman Bigham asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Hepp moved to approve the Raffle License for Pinckneyville Shooting Sports. 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 3-0-0 and the resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bigham – Mr. Gibson, would you like to speak?

Bill Gibson – I have a few things. As far as the Sheriff, does he drive the squad car to Sesser? He works part time at the Sesser Police Department & I wonder if he drives the squad car over there?

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Chairman Bigham – That I'm not sure, I'm not sure.

Commissioner Kelly – I don't know…

Mr. Gibson – Technically, if he's using it in his position, that could be a felony for official misconduct for using that. You know, he's been on channel 3 & the news complaining he don't have enough time & he sleeps in his office, obviously he's got enough time to work for Sesser & got enough time to get on the computer & bad mouth me to people & then he turn around, I talked to him about a job & he told me he could never hire me because he knew my family history, which has nothing to do with me but then he can hire somebody from Fayette County, let them come over here & work & then let them sleep in the white house. I mean, that's kind of concerning when he says he's sleeping in his office but obviously he's doing more than that if he's on the computer talking to women & he's explaining different stuff & slandering me & I didn't do nothing & then he turns around & he's working for Sesser.

Chairman Bigham – About the white house issue, we brought that up, what, the last meeting?

Commissioner Kelly – Yes.

Chairman Bigham – The last meeting, we brought that up. For insurance purposes & that, that's never going to happen again. At least we hope it don't.

Mr. Gibson – I live in Coulterville so I'm just, not too far out of the County & he hires somebody out of Fayette County to drive all the way over here. It's getting ridiculous, I got him on a…my brother got stopped by him & they're waiting on the full video tape from his body cam cause they only gave part of it, basically slandering him saying he's a meth cook & drives drunk & he's dealt with him his whole career but no love lost, it's on tape but then he turns around…I've never been interviewed by the Sheriff's Department but then I turn around & find out he's telling people that I've misused my authority 17 years ago & then he turns around & asking people what's he got to do with drugs cause I got a brother over there in the County jail when that has nothing to do with me. It's getting ridiculous. Judge's see through this, he has a bad reputation & those around here know it & I know, what's his part in drugs, he's using too? I got his brother locked up in the County jail & the guy he's talking to is on meth! That's how ignorant he is, asking them, a person on drugs, is on meth! I mean, it's ridiculous! Talking about misuse, if he's driving

that squad car over to Sesser, misusing, that's Perry County's money for one & he's misusing the squad car & that's a felony in the State of Illinois.

Commissioner Hepp – David, do you have any comment to that nature about his car?

State's Attorney Searby – I mean, that's stuff that I'm not aware of. This is stuff that I am hearing for the first time.

Commissioner Kelly – I have had a couple people ask me about it…but I haven't heard nothing.

Commissioner Hepp - You mean about which vehicle he is driving?

Commissioner Kelly – Yes.

Commissioner Hepp – Yeah, I'm not aware either.

Commissioner Kelly – I told them if they did see it over there, they'd better get a picture of it because it's hearsay…

Chairman Bigham – You know, we could try to check into it. A lot of that stuff goes on in a public office, Beth's office, any office, you know, we just run a County board meeting & keep the budget in line.

Mr. Gibson – He goes out of town & he keeps saying he ain't got enough time but he's got enough time to get on facebook & slander me…

Chairman Bigham – Is that his own private facebook?

Mr. Gibson – I don't know, it's got his picture on it, you know, Steve Bareis, I don't know, he might be doing that from his office, says he sleeps in his office, I don't know…he acts like he don't got no time but he's got plenty of time to slander people, got plenty of time to make all these traffic stops, then got time to work for Sesser PD. I know he worked at Sesser PD cause I did a Freedom of Information Act with the Illinois Training Board. So, he's working over there part time after he's been crying that he don't got no time, sleeps in his office on a cot, but he's going over to Sesser.

Chairman Bigham – Well, Bill, thank you. That moves us down to Bobby Kelly, he's going to talk about the white house.

Commissioner Kelly – The last meeting we had discussed getting appraisals for us, I think we have 2, right?

Commissioner Hepp – Yeah, we've sent out 2.

Commissioner Kelly – And we're waiting to hear back from them. Thought maybe we'd put this on the agenda for next meeting & then discuss & approve getting appraisals. And they are going to do that on the other property too, aren't they?

Commissioner Hepp – As far as I know, that's what we've talked about.

Commissioner Kelly – Ok, cause that's what I told them I wanted, both, cause we have somebody interested, so, we talked about fair value cause they asked what we wanted for it & I said we had to get an appraisal on everything & then we had to take fair value. We just can't sell it without an appraisal.

Chairman Bigham – Well, the one good thing about the property we got back here is there's no survey cost because it was surveyed a few years back, so no cost there to the County for a survey.

Commissioner Kelly – And the property up there may have a survey on it too, we'll just have to look at the records on it.

Chairman Bigham – How many years has the County had that property uptown?

Commissioner Kelly – I think it was before I came onto the board.

State's Attorney Searby – It was before the Building Commission was decommissioned because they transferred it to the County before then.

Chairman Bigham – Hopefully we can put that on the agenda for the next board meeting. Beth, do you have any election updates?

County Clerk Lipe – We are going to be extending hours in the office. We will be open until 7:00 pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays and will are going to add a couple Saturdays in

October also. I've got to consider all the overtime that will accrue too. I'm double checking with the State Board to make sure the overtime is included when we submit our grant.

Commissioner Hepp – David, do you think that overtime would count towards the COVID grant?

State's Attorney Searby – We probably need to check with Chuck with that CURES act since it seems that it may meet that criteria.

Commissioner Hepp – Is Mary Jane coming down? Tax Bill update?

County Clerk Lipe – I turned everything over to her, she is in the middle of processing. I'm only guessing but I'd say probably 10 -14 days. We've had a slow down this year starting with the Department of Revenue working remotely, then we had a couple issues with the abstract, then when it got to me, we had discovered an issue with an enterprise zone in Jackson County & an abatement with their 2017 taxes. It has filtered its way to us this year as an overlapping district with Trico School district. Jackson County made their adjustments last year & it was my decision to either give Trico School district the money that was owed to them or to withhold it & keep moving on. That delayed my part a little bit because when we determined the amount it was almost $8,900.00 & I just couldn't consciously take that money & not give that school that money so it took another couple of days to get all of those overlaps, the overlap with Jackson County line out so that Trico could get their money this year. Cause if you don't do it at the next tax cycle, they lose it, you can't go back, you have to do it the following tax cycle year. So, since Jackson County made their correction last year, we had to make ours this year. When Jackson County sent in their actual's for overlaps, we used their actuals for 2019, making the correction & Trico will get the money they are owed during this years distribution cycle. It took us 2 -3 days to get everything lined out with our tax vendor but that school deserves the money that is owed to them & even though it took a little more time, that's what I chose to do.

Commissioner Hepp – I also want to mention that here we are with no tax money coming in yet & we are making ends meet. We haven't had to borrow money this year so again, we're going in the right direction, our budget looks good even without having a revenue source like real estate taxes. We're paying our bills & we are current up to today. So, again, working the budget…

Commissioner Kelly – Done a good job.

Chairman Bigham – Some people don't even know what a tax anticipation warrant is.

Commissioner Hepp – The last time we didn't borrow money was when I was still working in the Treasurer's office under Bill Taylor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Board members examined claims presented for payment.

Commissioner Kelly 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 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 approved on a vote of 3-0-0.

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 Hepp moved the Board adjourn and convene the next regular meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Submitted:

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BETH LIPE, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
County of Perry, State of Illinois
Approved: September 17, 2020