Minutes of the Perry County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
6:00 p.m. – Thursday, September 17, 2020
County Board Room – Perry County Government Building

A regular meeting of the Perry County Board of Commissioners was convened at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 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 6:00 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: Assistant State's Attorney Marty Beltz and Sheriff Steve Bareis.

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 September 3, 2020 regular meeting. Chairman Bigham called for corrections. There were none.

Commissioner Hepp moved the minutes of the September 3, 2020 regular meeting be approved. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE APPOINTMENT TO PERRY COUNTY HOUSING BOARD COMMISSION

Chairman Bigham – By agreement, this first resolution will be tabled until the next Board meeting.

RESOLUTION – APPROVE APPRAISAL COMPANY FOR COUNTY REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL

Chairman Bigham – Bobby?

Commissioner Kelly – What I found out on that was, we can go ahead and approve it but we need to wait before we do anything because the property back, we have to look at the set aside for the shooting range, we have to have it all sectioned off before we can give an actual appraisal of how many acres so we can approve it tonight but we have to figure out what we are going to do over here, back here, before we can do the appraisal here. So, we can approve it tonight but we need to hold up on that part before we go forward. Are you guys okay with that?

Chairman Bigham & Commissioner Hepp – Yes.

Chairman Bigham – We had two (2) different appraisals on this. One was from Loring Appraisal Service from Herrin and the other was from Heumann Appraisals from Du Quoin, he lives off of Kimmel Blacktop, not Kimmel, Kathleen…looking at them, both of

them came in at the same price so, it's kind of a no brainer for the County Board to go with the guy in the County. The appraisal for the house was $400.00 and the appraisal for the vacant land was $1,000.00. So really what we are going to do tonight is make the motion to have Allen Heumann to do our appraisal for this and…

Commissioner Kelly – Whenever we get this all squared away…

Chairman Bigham - Yes, whenever we get that squared off…

Commissioner Kelly – We're going to have it surveyed and get the parcels out, you know, for your shooting range, Steve. And then figure out an easement.

Chairman Bigham – That's the one thing, the easement, that's going to be the big thing that easement there. I'm going to leave these appraisals right here so after the meeting if anyone wants to look at them can. Do we have any more discussion on that?

Commissioner Kelly – No, not really because I don't think we can go any further with it except just approve it then if we ever do get something figured out then we can have it appraised at least we won't have to go through that again.

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

Commissioner Kelly moved to accept the Appraisal Company to appraise the County's real property. 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 RAFFLE LICENSES

Chairman Bigham – We have 2 Raffle License Applications. They are for the Delta Theta Tau and Rhonda Gilliam-Medical Expenses.

County Clerk Lipe – Both applications have been completed and fees have been paid.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Bigham – There is no Discussion on today's agenda so this moves us to Public Comments and Announcements.

Commissioner Hepp – I just want to bring up again, I've been going through the budget, it's still again, looking good, it's on track, I think there's a few things, as far as, maybe some adjustments, it won't be a dollar change, we're just gonna move monies from one-line item to the other. But again, we're on track, the office holders are staying true to their budgets. We're at, when this was printed, which was Monday, as far as expenditures go, we were at 77%. So, we're on track the rest for the rest of the fiscal year to finish strong and I commend all of the office holders for working on a tight budget this year. They've done an exceptional job. And again, we haven't had to take out any loans and tax bills went out this week, today, so with us not having to take out any tax anticipation warrants and the fact that we haven't had our biggest revenue source, the real estate taxes, to actually accomplish that here in September, I think everybody should be commended for what a fine job everybody's done this fiscal year.

Chairman Bigham – I think we have, what, 7 meetings left until the end of the year, 7 meetings left and having had to borrow no tax anticipation money, that's a big plus, cause I mean, when I got on and throughout the years that Bobby's been here, it's been a struggle and we've, I think we are headed in the right direction and I think Susan has done a tremendous job and me and Bobby too, I mean, got to pat us on the back, I mean…

Commissioner Kelly – It's a good thing when you don't have to borrow money.

Commissioner Hepp – And, of course, that was actually, not the borrowing anymore, that wasn't put into the budget to actually work off of and use it as operating. So again, big step.

Chairman Bigham – Beth, do you want to talk about the election a little bit?

County Clerk Lipe – Yes, our public notice for early voting dates went into the papers this week, we are expanding our hours. It was voluntary if we wanted to or not, we are going to be working until 7:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday's during the month of October. The last Thursday, the 27th of October will be the night we go to Du Quoin City Hall for early voting over there, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. And then also in October will be open on Saturday the 3rd, the 17th and the 31st from 8:00 am to noon here for early voting also. It starts next Thursday, September 24th and will go until Monday, November 2nd. And as of right now, all polling locations will be open 6:00 am to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 3rd. We do not have any changes right now and hopefully we won't.

Chairman Bigham – Do you have all of your judges lined up and everything?

County Clerk Lipe – Most of our judges are lined up, we have had a couple that have elected to not work due to health issues that they are going through right now but we have already filled those spots. So, right now, we are on track and everything is looking good. They released our specimen ballots yesterday to us and today our GBS vendor was here and he released and downloaded all of our ballots for early voting and we will start working on those tomorrow.

Chairman Bigham – Do you have a big list for substitutes?

County Clerk Lipe – We do, it just depends on which party they come from but so far, fingers crossed, we are looking pretty good. So, we have somewhere around 900 vote by mail ballots to process for next week and all of our military ballots have to be out tomorrow but we just had a hand full of those, we didn't have very many of them.

Sheriff Bareis – We will need to set something up for the jail inmates as well.

County Clerk Lipe – Ok, yes. And, there is a new door ordered for the outside of the building and it is supposed to be to the distributor who is going to be putting it in, tomorrow and Steve and I have been working on the security because my elections grant is going to pay for the drop box, which will be locked inside the building and we need to expand the security cameras for the door and we're working on that to try to get that put together so we can get the security cameras down there.

Chairman Bigham – That door, it's giving every employee fits out here.

County Clerk Lipe – I had to call Steve to handcuff it shut a few weekends ago. It was pretty bad, having to handcuff it.

Sheriff Bareis – We had to use leg irons and two sets of handcuffs to get it closed. I worked that Saturday so I came out and brought some tools and graphite spray and have it working for now.

County Clerk Lipe – So we've been very careful with it and we just pray that it's going to lock.

Chairman Bigham – I talked to the guy that's worked on it from Mulkeytown and he told me that it is just shot.

County Clerk Lipe – The black bar on the door is broken and if we unlock both doors the one stays open so we are letting out all the cold or warm air but if we keep that other door locked, then we are not handicap accessible. Plus, you are letting creatures in, we had a snake one morning, a lizard one morning. I mean it will be an expense but my elections grant will pay for the drop box and for them to install that and it's all coming from the same company so it will all be installed at one time. It will be one larger door instead of the two like we have and it will be handicap accessible.

Chairman Bigham – One thing I want to touch base on is the Census this year, it seems with all this COVID stuff you really hadn't heard much on that and I think we have until the end of the month to register your household. That's big time, Southern Illinois, it helps the funding not just for our County but all of our Counties.

Commissioner Kelly – They had something about the Census on Channel 3 this morning. They didn't have Perry County in it but they had Pulaski, Alexander, Johnson. And they were showing how much some of them decreased and I think it was Pope, went up actually but one of them went down a bunch.

Chairman Bigham – You remember the board meeting when we had that lady from Carbondale that came in January or February, they were going to go door to door in Southern Illinois and then COVID struck so it all got shut down, I don't know, Pete, maybe you can mention it in your article there and just remind people that they need to get that in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Board members examined claims presented for payment.

Commissioner Hepp – We're up to date, which is good.

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.

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, October 1, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., Commissioner Hepp seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was approved and the Board stood adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted:

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BETH LIPE, County Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
County of Perry, State of Illinois
Approved: October 1, 2020