

DEWITT COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Jul 20, 2023
6PM
DEWITT COUNTY BUILDING

Meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Chairman Matthews.

Roll call was answered by Tilley, Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Ryan, Werts and Riddle were absent.

Christy Pruser addressed the Board with concerns she has at the Marina, such as the slip rent going up, but several amenities are being lost. She said they have lost access to the laundry facility, there is no mechanic on site, limbs from the previous storm have not been removed, phone calls and emails are rarely answered by the Marina Committee, power bills are not being sent out regularly, and the proposed building of a shed has not happened. She feels these concerns are not being addressed by the Marina Committee. Her letter to the Board about what she discussed, and her concerns, is filed with these minutes.

Lisa McKinzey, a slip renter on Doc 4 at the Marina, addressed the Board about the Doc 4 only band party they had on July 9. She went over the email communication she had with board member Matthews regarding the party. Her letter to the board about what she discussed, and her concerns, is filed with these minutes.

Matthews addressed the 2 letters of correspondence that all Board Members received and asked if anyone had any questions. All members received both letters and no questions were asked.

Motion by Tilley second by Myers to approve the June 22, 2023, County Board meeting minutes. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve the Resolution for the reappointment of Kirk L Henry as a Commissioner of the Rutledge Empire Drainage District for a 3-year term set to expire on the first Tuesday in September 2026. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Prestegaard to appoint Joe Witte to fill the position on the RPC that is vacant due to the resignation of Tom Smerz. Aye: Tilley, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Witte Abstained. Motion Carried.

Carter gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Land Use meeting. Minutes from the Land Use meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Carter second by Witte to approve case A35-2023 Revision to 155.053B(1)(2) Prohibiting CO₂ injection wells in all zoning districts.

Motion by Ferguson second by Carter to table the motion to approve case A35-2023 Revision to 155.053B(1)(2) Prohibiting CO₂ injection wells in all zoning districts. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Myers gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Public Safety meeting. Minutes from the Public Safety meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Myers second by Deerwester to authorize up to \$12,000 for fencing/runs at the Animal Shelter from the contingency fund. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Myers second by Prestegaard to enter into a Shelter Medicine Agreement with the U of I. Myers stated that instead of a 3-year agreement, this agreement is for 5 years and the only change in the agreement is the cost will now be \$50 for all animals and includes the spay/neuter, any shots the animal will need and microchipping of the animal. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Ferguson gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Property meeting. Minutes from the Property meeting are filed with these minutes.

Prestegaard told the Board that the Road and Bridge Committee did not meet this month.

Matthews gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Marina meeting. He said much of the meeting was discussing the sale of the Marina. He said DNR sent a letter stating they want to purchase the Marina and will be sending a proposal to purchase. Minutes from the Marina meeting are filed with these minutes.

Tilley gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Finance meeting. Minutes from the Finance meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to pay all bills. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to increase the FOP wage schedules for FY24 by an additional 1%, FY25 and FY26 by an additional 2%.

Motion by Carter second by Matthews to go into Executive Session due to Union discussion. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

All audience members were asked to leave the Board room and Executive Session was called to order at 6:25pm and concluded at 6:50pm.

All audience members were brought back into the Board room.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to go out of executive session and back to regular Board meeting. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Original motion brought forward by Tilley and second by Ferguson to increase the FOP wage schedules for FY24 by an additional 1%, FY25 and FY26 by an additional 2% was voted on. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Myers to approve the proposed revision to Chapter 38.040 of the County Personnel Policy. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ferguson second by Prestegaard to replace the generator in the County Building utilizing ARPA funds. Ferguson said this was just to get the approval to use the ARPA funds. The amount will be brought back to the Board for approval. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Deerwester to move forward with request for proposals for the sale of the Marina. Matthews said he hopes to have Nov 30, 2023, be the deadline for proposals and all received by that deadline will be opened after that date. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Carter second by Tilley to issue a fine to Enel/Alta Farms for violation of curtailment agreement/condition. Carter said the National Weather Service failed to alert Enel but Enel still agreed to curtail during bad weather. Matthews agreed with Carter. Witte went over the curtailment agreement between the National Weather Service and Enel/Alta Farms and says the fine is warranted. Tilley asked with this being their first violation if there was another way instead of fining them, like asking what steps they are taking for next time, so it doesn't happen again. Deerwester believes fining them even though it's their first time shows the County Board is paying attention. Tilley asked who is supposed to issue the fine. State's Attorney Markwell said the fine should come in letter form from the County Board and he would be glad to review the letter before it's sent out. Dee Dee will draft the fine letter and Chairman Matthews will sign it. Witte wants the letter to also ask for justification as to why this happened and what steps they are taking to make sure it doesn't happen again. Matthews said that would also be put in the letter. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Ferguson to accept the proposed construction inspection contract from HLR for the Revere Rd Section 20-00044-04-RS project. Prestegaard said the amount of the contract is \$160,828. Aye: Tilley, Witte, Carter, Farris, Deerwester, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard. Motion Carried.

Deerwester stated that she wants to look at changing the meeting times of the committees. Some of the current times will affect her being able to attend because of her job. She just wanted the Board to start thinking about it and discuss it more at the next meeting since she was late getting it on the agenda for this month's meeting. Matthews said that is something that can be addressed.

Motion by Tilley second by Deerwester to adjourn at 7:17pm with all in favor.