

DEWITT COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Oct 19, 2023
6PM
DEWITT COUNTY BUILDING

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Matthews.

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

Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to go into Executive Session due to Imminent Litigation at 6:02pm.

All audience members were asked to leave the Board room and Executive Session was called to order at 6:02pm and concluded at 6:32pm.

All audience members were brought back into the Board room.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to go out of executive session and back to regular Board meeting. Roll call answered by all 12 Board members.

Motion by Tilley second by Werts to approve the September 21, 2023, County Board meeting minutes. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Farris to appoint Ben Lowers to the ETSB for 2 years ending October 31, 2025. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Werts to appoint Stephen Page to the ETSB for 4 years ending October 31, 2027. (representing Clinton Fire) Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. 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.

Myers gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Public Safety meeting. She advised the Board that Tony Harris has filled one part time kennel assistant position and they started this week. Minutes from the Public Safety meetings are filed with these minutes.

Ferguson gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Property meeting. He updated the Board on the work in the back bathrooms of the County building and said they will be getting some pricing for new stalls and deciding if they will go with new or keep the current ones. He also said that the roofing project at the Jail is coming along well. Minutes from the Property meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Ferguson second by Prestegaard to accept the bid from Wilcox Electric & Service, Inc. in the amount of \$154,115.90 for a whole building generator for the County Building utilizing ARPA funds. He stated this was the only bid they received. He also stated that it could be a year before the generator is installed and expects it to be next Spring (2024) before they begin on the plumbing. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ferguson second by Farris to accept the quote from Waters Construction to repair the ceiling in the ambulance building in the amount of \$7,150.00 utilizing funds from the depreciation fund. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ferguson second by Myers to approve \$16,500 from ARPA funds for additional dog runs. The Board agreed they had already approved \$12,000 in July for dog runs that would have been paid from contingencies fund. The Board will not be paying the \$12,000 from that fund, instead, the \$12,000 is included in this \$16,500 and will be paid from APRA funds. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Prestegaard gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Road and Bridge meeting. He informed the Board that the maintenance crew just finished mowing for the year and will begin shoulder work projects next. Minutes from the Road and Bridge 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 Ferguson to pay all bills. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to put the FY24 levies/budget on display. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Carter second by Farris to approve Moratorium Resolution on Carbon Dioxide Pipelines. Carter said this makes a statement and expresses the Counties concerns to the Illinois Commerce Commission. Markwell does not believe this is enforceable because pipelines are Federally regulated, and local governments do not have the right to step in or stop them. Witte is concerned with passing a moratorium that can't be upheld. Myers suggested removing the moratorium part and just submitting the concerns. Mark Mathon addressed his concerns of passing the moratorium resolution because it will affect him on doing his job with road permits for the pipelines, making him go back and forth to SA Markwell on if he should do his job or shouldn't do his job. Aye: Carter, Prestegaard, Ryan, Werts. Nay: Witte, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Riddle, Tilley. Abstain: Myers. Motion Failed.

Motion by Matthews second by Witte to authorize State's Attorney to respond to Webber & Thies, P.C. on behalf of the County of DeWitt. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to move the date of the November County Board meeting currently set for Wednesday, November 22, 2023, to Tuesday, November 28, 2023, keeping the same time and location, 6pm in the County Board Room. Matthews expressed his reasoning for moving the date is that Board members deserve the evening before Thanksgiving off as well for purposes of travel and so on. Aye: Witte, Carter, Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts. Motion Carried.

Ryan spoke on the incident in Teutopolis IL. He wanted to make sure the Board was aware of the incident and wants to know that the County is ready and has a plan should this County ever encounter something like that. Tilley suggested asking Micah to see if he could explain what plan is in place and maybe ask him to come talk to the Board. Myers also stated that she reached out to Micah and Tony Harris and will forward to the other Board members the response she received from Micah.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to adjourn at 7:24pm with all in favor.