

DEWITT COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Nov 28, 2023
6PM
DEWITT COUNTY BUILDING

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

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

Tony Harris addressed the Board regarding the Animal Shelter. He informed them that he had successfully hired one part-time kennel assistant and the Warden position had been filled. He has been unsuccessful with interviews for the second part-time position, but he does have some more interviews scheduled. He said that the Warden and himself are both close to completing their AC1 course. He is currently working with J&M Critters to renew their contract with the Animal Shelter. He also informed the Board about an incident where he was contacted by the Clinton Police Department about 2 malnourished dogs. He could not go into too much detail since the call is now an active criminal case, but he did want the Board to know that the two dogs have been placed in foster care and are doing well. He informed the Board that the U of I Clinic is being held on November 30, 2023, and is to help low-income families get their dogs/cats spayed or neutered. He said the cost is \$15. Currently the shelter has 3 dogs and 10 cats at the facility.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to approve the October 19, 2023, County Board meeting minutes. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Farris to approve the November 7, 2023, County Board special meeting minutes. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to appoint Ms. Sharon Mills to serve as a member of the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department Board of Health, filling a longstanding vacancy. Ms. Sharon Mills will serve the remaining three-year term which is set to expire on June 30, 2024. In assuming this role, Ms. Sharon Mills will additionally serve as a member of the DeWitt County Tuberculosis Sanitarium Board. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Carter gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Land Use meeting. He said they received an update from GFL, much like an annual report, and GFL has 2 new projects scheduled within the next year. He also said the committee is still doing revisions to Chapter 153. Minutes from the Land Use meeting are filed with these minutes.

Myers told the Board that the Public Safety Committee did not meet this month.

Ferguson gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Property meeting. He said even though the committee had no recommendations to the Board, the committee did approve new stall material for the back bathrooms. He also wanted the Board to know that the roof project is complete at the Jail. He noted that the trees and bushes around the building have been cut

down and what is left to be hauled away will be. 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. He did inform them that the Highway Dept. is now fully staffed.

Matthews told the Board that the Marina Committee did not meet this month.

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: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to renew the ICRMT/Pekin Insurance coverages for FY2024 in the amount of \$354,519.00. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to purchase 2 drones for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$16,618.00 from the FY23 budget. Sheriff Walker spoke to the Board regarding the drones. He said the company recommended a packaged deal that includes 2 drones, one is bigger and includes heat sensing technology and the second one is a smaller drone that can be used to fly into buildings if law enforcement believes a suspect or someone is inside. Sheriff Walker also said the EMA department and Coordinator could use the drones to take pictures of towns and villages in the County to use as before and after pictures should any storm damage take place to help secure storm damage reimbursements. He said the drones can be deployed within 30 minutes using our own pilot instead of having to wait for surrounding Counties such as Logan or Macon to get to the scene. Training will take place within the department. He also said he will not be loaning out the drones to any other County. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Prestegaard to approve the Engagement Letter with Floyd & Associates for auditing/budget work for FY24 in the amount of \$56,750.00. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to approve the Resolution Establishing Compensation for the DeWitt County Supervisor of Assessments for FY24. The amount is \$78,317.46 and is for the period December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024. Dee Dee informed the Board that Sandy Schlosser is set to retire in September of 2024 and at that time they will set pay for the incoming Supervisor of Assessments. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to approve to pay all employees a \$100 holiday bonus. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to approve the Resolution for the DeWitt County Board to participate in the service program of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, commencing December 1, 2023, and ending November 30, 2024. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Witte to approve Case S259-2023, a request for a vacation rental in an accessory building. Both the RPC and ZBA have recommended approval. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve Case A36-2023, a text amendment to Chapter 157 of the County Code of Ordinances- Solar Energy Systems. This case originated with the Land Use committee and RPC. The recommended changes are in red. The ZBA recommended additional changes and those are in blue.

Motion by Carter second by Witte to amend Matthews' motion to include extra language on page 11, #15- Battery storage. Carter would like to add an additional sentence to read: "Battery storage is not permitted with-in 3,000 feet of any residential structure, school, church, hospital or child daycare facility."

Motion by Witte second by Ferguson to amend Carter's amendment to also include an additional sentence that reads: "This setback requirement may be waived in writing by affected property owner". Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Back to Carter's motion to amend. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Witte, Carter. Nays: Matthews, Riddle, Tilley. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witte second by Ferguson to amend Matthews' original motion to omit some language on page 19, section 157.13- Hearing Factors. Witte would like the first paragraph to read as follows: "The County Board may approve a Sitting Permit application if it finds the evidence complies with state and federal law and regulations, and with the standards of this zoning code including the factors listed below. The factors below are applied as a balancing test, not individual requirements to be met." Witte would also like to strike the words "Community Solar Garden or" from factors (A), (B), (C), (F) and (G). Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Witte, Carter. Nays: Ferguson, Matthews, Riddle, Tilley. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witte second by Ryan to amend Matthews' original motion to omit language on page 7, section 157.08- Commercial Solar Energy Facility (SES). Witte would like the first paragraph to read: "Commercial Ground Mount solar energy systems designed for providing energy to off-site users or export to the wholesale market require a Sitting Permit and are allowed in the General Industrial (I) and Agricultural (A) Districts." Motion was withdrawn by Witte and Ryan.

Motion by Witte second by Ferguson to amend Matthews' original motion to omit language on page 7, section 157.08- Commercial Solar Energy Facility (SES) and add additional allowable districts. Witte would like the first paragraph to read: "Commercial Ground Mount solar energy systems designed for providing energy to off-site users or export to the wholesale market require a Sitting Permit and are allowed in the General Industrial (I), Rural Development 1 (RD1), Rural Development 2 (RD2) and

Agricultural (A) Districts.” Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte. Nays: Myers, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witte second by Ferguson to amend Matthews’ original motion and to adopt recommended changes by State’s Attorney Markwell as discussed in open session. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

(Back to original motion) Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve Case A36-2023, a text amendment to Chapter 157 of the County Code of Ordinances- Solar Energy Systems (as amended). This case originated with the Land Use committee and RPC. The recommended changes are in red. The ZBA recommended additional changes and those are in blue. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Ryan briefly updated the Board on the new website. He said training will be starting soon and then the next step should be taking over the website.

Matthews briefly updated the Board on the RFP process and time frames.

Motion by Tilley second by Witte to adopt revision to Personnel Policy as stated below:

Repeal 38.040 – Personal Time and replace with Paid Leave Time

All employees, after receiving approval from their supervisor, may take up to 40 hours of paid leave time for any reason during the County’s fiscal year- 12-1 through 11-30. This benefit is not cumulative. Time cannot be used in less than 1-hour increments.
Effective 12-1-2023.

Revise 38.061- Computation of Vacation as follows:

- B) 1) Beginning year two- three days
- 2) Beginning the third year through the seventh year- eight days
- 3) Beginning the eighth year through the seventeenth year- thirteen days
- 4) Beginning the eighteenth year through the twenty-fourth year- eighteen days
- 5) Beginning the twenty-fifth year and thereafter- twenty-three days

Effective 12-1-2023.

Motion by Ferguson second by Witte to amend Tilley’s motion to include language at the end of section 38.040 to read: “Employees will not be paid for unused Paid Leave Time (PLT) upon resignation or termination.” Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

(Back to original motion) Motion by Tilley second by Witte to adopt revision to Personnel Policy as stated below (as amended):

Repeal 38.040 – Personal Time and replace with Paid Leave Time

All employees, after receiving approval from their supervisor, may take up to 40 hours of paid leave time for any reason during the County’s fiscal year- 12-1 through 11-30. This benefit is not cumulative. Time cannot be used in less than 1-hour increments.
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Revise 38.061- Computation of Vacation as follows:

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- 2) Beginning the third year through the seventh year- eight days
- 3) Beginning the eighth year through the seventeenth year- thirteen days
- 4) Beginning the eighteenth year through the twenty-fourth year- eighteen days
- 5) Beginning the twenty-fifth year and thereafter- twenty-three days

Effective 12-1-2023.

Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter.
Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Witte to revise the following line items in the proposed FY24 budget:

- 220.000.9009- \$277,100.00 Liability Insurance Excess
- 412.000.6088 - \$53,425.00 Marina Property Insurance
- 412.000.7112 - \$778,575.00 Marina Capital Improvements

Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter.
Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Prestegaard to adopt FY24 budget and levies. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Witte, Carter. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to adjourn at 8:19pm with all in favor.