

DEWITT COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Oct 24, 2024
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, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Riddle was absent.

Tim Gadbury, the Director of Piatt County Public Transportation- Piattran- spoke to the Board about considering using Piattran for DeWitt County's public transportation system since the current system, Show Bus, will be ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Gadbury said they have 15 vehicles in their fleet and 9 drivers and are hoping to add more drivers soon. Piattran offers the same services as the Show Bus and almost all the program is State and Federal funded along with some funding provided by Piatt County and personal donations. Chairman Matthews said in order to apply for available funding, a resolution would need to be approved at the November 21, 2024, Co Board meeting. Mr. Gadbury said for more information anyone can visit their website at Piattran.com.

Mike Nelson from Frontier spoke to the Board about an opportunity to secure funding that would provide fiber broadband access for unserved and underserved areas within DeWitt County. Frontier would do all the grant work through the BEAD grants. Mr. Nelson handed out a paper copy of a slide show and that is attached to these minutes. He would like to receive several letters of support from the County and said having those to him by December would be helpful.

Motion by Witte second by Tilley to approve the Sept 19, 2024, County Board meeting minutes. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte. Abstain by Carter. Motion carried.

Carter gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Land Use meeting. He said their meeting consisted of the Zoning Administrator position and whether it should be part time or full time. He said they did not come up with anything as a committee and passed it on to the Finance Committee. 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 said she had nothing to bring forward but did want the Board to know that Tony Harris would like to resign his position by the Spring of 2025 and said he has done a great job in his position at the Animal Shelter. Minutes from the Public Safety meeting are filed with these minutes.

Ferguson gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Property meeting. He said the generator is close to being delivered and that the tuckpointing project started 2 weeks ago and is making good progress. Minutes from the Property meeting are filed with these minutes.

Prestegaard told the Board the Road and Bridge committee did not meet and he had nothing to bring forward.

Matthews informed the Board the Marina Committee did not meet.

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, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to rescind action last month concerning 5% increase in personnel line items in all budgets and utilize existing wage scale as a guide for new hires. Matthews said the motion last month did not consider the new minimum wage going into effect or the starting wage for new hires. Aye: Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Nay: Deerwester. Motion carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to adopt new wage schedule for nonunion hourly employees for one year. The wage scale was handed out to all Board members. Ryan and Deerwester would still like to see a wage schedule based on merit and not just time employed. Carter said he would agree to a one-year wage schedule but believes the following year the wages need to be looked at in more detail. Myers asked what raises would be given to salaried employees since the new wage schedule only deals with hourly employees. Dee said that the budget reflects a 5% increase for salaried employees. Aye: Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Nay: Deerwester. Motion carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Prestegaard to put the proposed FY25 budget on display. Myers wants the budget to be adjusted to show the position being left by Tony Harris at the Animal Shelter as full time because at this time it is currently budgeted for part-time, and she believes the position needs to be full-time. Tilley told Myers the motion is to only put the budget on display for anyone to look at and go over and said any changes will be addressed at the Finance meeting on November 18, 2024. Tilley also said that due to 3 levies and the ambulance going over 5% a truth in taxation hearing will need to be held. She said Monday, November 25, 2024, at 6pm there will be a full board meeting to adopt the budget. The truth in taxation hearing will take place the same night at 5:30pm (Ambulance District is at 5:30pm and DeWitt County Truth in Taxation hearing is at 5:45pm), right before the full board meeting. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve Resolution Amending The County Clerk Predictable Fee Schedule. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, 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, 2024, and ending November 30, 2025, for the sum of \$10,000. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Farris to approve Case S269-2024- a request for a special use to construct a tower for internet service. Both the RPC and ZBA unanimously recommended approval. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve Case A40-2024- a text amendment to Chapter 155- Zoning to include a definition for Agritourism and to allow in all zoning districts. Both the RPC and ZBA unanimously recommended approval. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Tabled motion from September's Co Board Meeting: Motion by Matthews second by Witte to approve Case S267-2024- maximum 100 site campground at Clinton Lake Marina. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve Clinton Lake Sailing Association's (CLSA) proposal of use of the Sailboat Fund. Dee said the amount in the fund is in the mid \$20,000 area. Matthews thinks the funds should be allocated to CLSA once a specific project is presented or identified.

Motion by Matthews second by Witte to amend Matthews' original motion and add "once an approved project has been brought to the full board" at the end of the original motion. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Back to Matthews' original motion with the amendment. Motion by Matthews second by Ferguson to approve Clinton Lake Sailing Association's (CLSA) proposal of use of the Sailboat Fund once an approved project has been brought to the full board. Aye: Deerwester, Farris, Ferguson, Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter. Motion carried.

Matthews informed the board that John Wrage came to the Finance meeting to discuss money needed to upgrade radios for all DeWitt County Fire Departments and DeWitt County EMS (ambulance services). Matthews said the Board will be hearing more about this next month beginning at the Public Safety meeting. Mr. Wrage was in the audience and he and Sheriff Walker informed the Board on the importance of the departments and ambulance services to upgrade to the new radios.

Motion by Tilley second by Witte to adjourn at 7:34pm with all in favor.