

DEWITT COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
Feb 22, 2024  
6PM  
DEWITT COUNTY BUILDING

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

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

Matthews informed the Board that they all should have received, by email, the jail inspection report and the Notice of Appeal Against the Decision of the DeWitt County Zoning Board of Appeals- Case V-342-2023 that were listed on the agenda under correspondence and asked if any members had any questions. No questions were asked.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to approve the January 18, 2024, County Board meeting minutes. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Carter gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Land Use meeting. He said they have a meeting next month with ENEL and Board Members need to get questions for ENEL sent to Dee. He also stated that the County needs a whole new ordinance pertaining to battery storage and that the motion to allow Land Use to proceed with creating a new ordinance is listed later on the agenda. 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 informed the Board that Tony Harris has informed her that the pet population at the Animal Shelter is rising and that they do have a new temporary part-time helper. 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. Minutes from the Property meeting are filed with these minutes.

Motion by Ferguson second by Ryan to approve the agreement for professional services for the brick rehab project in the amount of \$18,500. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ferguson second by Tiley to approve up to \$14,035 for carpet replacement in the Circuit Clerk, State's Attorney, and Zoning offices. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

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

Motion by Prestegaard second by Myers to approve Concurrence of Award, Section 20-00044-05-RS, Revere Rd. Prestegaard said this is required to be submitted to IDOT before Award is issued. He also informed the Board that only 1 bid came in for \$4,050,045.42 which is \$600,000 above the engineer's regular estimate. He said they could reject the bid and go through State letting but that could take about

90 days and there is no guarantee any bids would come in. Prestegaard also informed the board that the Federal government pays 80% and the County will pay 20%, and for the \$600,000 amount that was over the original estimate that would have the County paying \$120,000 extra. Ferguson asked Co Engineer Mathon if that extra \$120,000 was in the budget and he informed the Board that it is available in his budget. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Carter to approve Engineering Services Contract from Hampton, Lenzini, and Renwick in the amount of \$210,347 for Section 20-00044-05-RS. Prestegaard said this is needed for the project and confirmed that there is no Federal government help with money for this cost. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Prestegaard second by Werts to approve the quote from Clear Talk in the amount of \$10,748.49 for replacement of the Highway Department radio repeater. Prestegaard stated that the current repeater is 20 years old, and the department is currently using a loaner from Clear Talk. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Matthews gave the Board a brief description of what was discussed at the current month's Marina meeting. He said they received 7 RFPs. He also said the Marina committee is meeting February 27, 2024, to really dig into the RFP's and their goal is to have a recommendation to the County Board in March. Minutes from the Marina meeting are filed with these minutes.

Tilley informed the Board that the Finance Committee did meet but her motions are further down on the agenda. (This was because the Finance Committee met after the agenda was posted, so no recommendations were able to be put on the agenda under the Finance Committee section.)

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

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to approve \$30,000 in funding to the DCDC. Tilley said Kurt Homann from DCDC spoke to the Finance committee and the committee feels that \$30,000 will help keep DCDC up and running at this time. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tilley second by Ferguson to approve Case S261-2023 – operate a junkyard - with the property being secured by May 1, 2024, with fencing to follow the ZBA recommendations. Dee spoke briefly about the case. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ferguson second by Witte to approve Case S262-2023 – operate a vacation/short term rental. Dee spoke briefly about the case and informed the Board that the ZBA and RPC both recommend for approval. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witte second by Carter to approve Case A37-2023 – amendment to Chapter 157 – Solar Ordinance. Witte and Dee both explained that this is regarding siting permits to only authorize for one use and can be cancelled 1 year after the siting permit was issued if it hasn't been used. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Carter second by Ryan to authorize Land Use committee to proceed with creating a new ordinance – Battery Energy Storage Systems. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to approve the Bastion hosting agreement for the recording system in the Recorder's office. Clerk Harris and Dee both informed the Board that the current recording system is on an in-house server running off 2012. There are multiple updates that need to be done to keep the recording system running smoothly. Switching to the Cloud based Bastion will ensure all updates are done because the recording vendor, Fidar, will take over all updates and switching to the cloud will also secure and protect all recording information from any possible security compromises. The cost is \$7,000 per year with a one-time set-up fee of \$5,000. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to approve the Treasurer's Annual Report. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Motion by Matthews second by Tilley to approve the Treasurer's Investment Policy. Aye: Matthews, Myers, Prestegaard, Riddle, Ryan, Tilley, Werts, Witte, Carter, Farris, Ferguson. Motion Carried.

Matthews thanked Ryan for his hard work on the new website. Ryan said he believes the County should make a policy of what can and cannot be posted on the new website. He said he gave a draft of a policy to State's Attorney Markwell to look over.

Motion by Tilley second by Farris to adjourn at 6:40pm with all in favor.